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MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 484

Blood crisis warning as donations set to drop in busy 2012

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs fear a "perfect storm" of bank holidays and sporting events could spark a crisis in blood donation levels in Kent during 2012.

The NHS Blood and Transplant service points to statistics which show 93 per cent of donors give blood during the working week – but that when there are big sporting events or a string of bank holidays, the number of donations slump dramatically.

The bank holidays around Easter and the royal wedding week in 2011 resulted in 3,500 fewer donations.

Now health chiefs fear the London 2012 Olympic Games, football's Euro 2012 tournament, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee bank holiday could hit much-needed supplies.

Jon Latham, NHSBT assistant direc-

tor, said: "2012 is going to be an exciting year for the UK but we're concerned the cluster of major events could dramatically impact the number of blood donations coming in.

"Approximately two million units of blood will be needed by hospitals throughout 2012, and the equivalent of 500 extra donations will be needed each week in the first six months to help us build blood stocks and cover extra potential need from Olympic visitors.

"We're calling on the public to make regular blood donation a New Year's resolution. Whether you've never donated before or haven't done for a while please book your appointment and help save lives in 2012."

Last summer, the combination of Andy Murray playing in the Wimbledon semi-final, the quarter-final of the

Continued on page 2



EYE OF THE TIGER

STOP THE FARMS: Campaigner sets his sights on the magnificent animals **SEE INSIDE**

CRIME

Car crash con gang are jailed

A DOZEN men have been jailed for a 'crash for cash' scam where car collisions are staged to make bogus claims on insurance policies. The plot targeted innocent motorists as tricksters looked to make more than £235,000 in insurance claims. The gang were caught on camera on the A2. **PAGE 5**

RETAIL

Stores cash in as sales start

WE may be in the icy grip of economic doom and gloom, but it didn't stop crowds flocking to the county's major retail outlets as the sales got under way on Boxing Day. Shopping complex Bluewater had people queuing from 2.30am in a record-breaking day of spending. **PAGE 2**

REVIEW

The highs and lows of 2011

REFLECT on the last 12 months across Kent and Medway in our special news and sport reviews of the year inside today's paper. From royal visits to airports, to plush new galleries and theatres we look back on 2011. And in our sports pages we review a busy year for our athletes. **PAGE 15**

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INSIDE

- News.....2-20
- Kent Remembered.....21
- Comment/Feedback.....22-23
- Keep Kent Working.....24
- Business Week.....25
- Jobs & Notices.....26-29
- Sport.....46-47

INSIDE

Kent Weekend

- Interview.....33

LEISURE

Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, 34-37

HOMES

- Property.....38

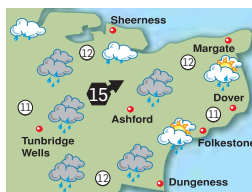
MOTORS

- Driving.....41-45

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TODAY: Unsettled with rain becoming heavy. Windy, but very mild. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F). **TONIGHT:** Heavy rain, clearing later. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.45	6.0	16.21	5.5
Margate	04.38	4.3	17.21	4.0
St Mary's	09.41	4.7	22.09	4.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 11C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Saturday	Max 11C	Min 6C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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CONTACTS
Editor: Ian Patel
Email: ian.patel@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817200
Sport: 01303 817183
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817040
Business: 01303 817190
Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
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HEALTH

Plea for blood as donations expected to drop

Continued from front page

football World Cup and warm, sunny weather, saw 851 less donations in just one day over the previous year – a 12 per cent drop.

A significant drop in donations could have a massive impact on the thousands of people in England who require blood. Blood 'products' are not just for

road traffic accidents, they are used to treat people with cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell disease, for new mums and babies, and during surgery.

Earlier in December, blood donors from across Kent attended an awards ceremony in Bexleyheath to mark giving enough blood to save almost 20,000 lives.

The ceremony honoured

long-serving blood donors who had donated blood on at least 75 occasions, with 20 of the lifesavers commended for reaching the 100 donation milestone.

Between them, the donors have given more than 6,600 units of blood, the equivalent of almost 5,500 pints.

Singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor who is backing the campaign

said: "NHS Blood and Transplant needs 230,000 new blood donors every year to make sure blood stock levels are maintained.

"I gave blood for the first time this year and plan on becoming a regular donor. It's free, you'll save lives, and it's a resolution you'll actually want to keep."

Anyone wanting to donate for the first time should be aged

between 17-65, weighing at least 50kg (7st and 12lbs) and in general good health.

If you've donated before, you can start again up to your 70th birthday and there is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years.

To book an appointment call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit the website at www.blood.co.uk.

SHOPPING

Christmas Day barely over as stores cash in on shoppers hit by sales fever

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SHOPPERS started queuing from 2.30am on Boxing Day in a bid to grab a bargain as Bluewater shopping complex declared a record-breaking rush to the sales.

The centre was expecting more than 900,000 people through its doors this week for what is traditionally its busiest time of year.

Retail manager James Waugh said: "Boxing Day was more successful than we anticipated. Many stores achieved their best-ever levels of spend."

And it was a trend reflected across the county as shops looked to end a difficult year with the sound of cash tills ringing.

Tom Price, manager of Thanet's Westwood Cross centre, explained: "This time of year is vital – but it's a double-edged sword. One reason prices are cut is to drive sales, but also to liquidate heavy stocks.

"If everything follows the pattern of the last two years since the recession started, people have been increasingly saving money for the sales.

"They have one week to cash in. We get beyond January 2 and it's over with the children back to school.

"It's like a firework – it all takes off and then it's gone. There are great deals



BAG A BARGAIN: Shoppers were queuing at Bluewater from 2.30am on Boxing Day

on offer. Cuts are deep because retailers have a lot of stock to move.

"It's seen as a last opportunity because things will be very quiet in the rest of January and February."

Lloyd Wright is centre manager at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone. He said: "Before Christmas there was some doubt about an official sale as many stores had pre-Christmas sales.

"We normally expect the first week of January to be busy but there were a lot of pre-Christmas sales so it remains to be seen how they are able to keep interest up."

Manager of Ashford's County Square shopping centre, Frances Burt, added: "I was speaking with shoppers before Christmas and many were telling me they were holding money back for this time.

"They said they were going to give their friends and family cash and say 'take this money and get yourself a nice Christmas present'.

"We have been busy and hope it will continue. This is a vital time for shops."

In Chatham, Martyn Stone is the centre director of the Pentagon.

He said: "As competition has intensified on the high street and retailers across the country have found themselves in a difficult trading environment over recent years, heavy discounting and pre-Christmas sales are a common sight. However, sales after Christmas Day are still a massive part of the retail calendar."

Consumer group Which? said 10 per cent of Kent shoppers had held back Christmas cash to spend at the sales. Plus 60 per cent have long been planning their sales attack for Boxing Day and beyond.

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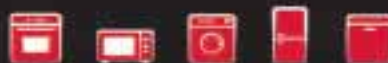
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ANIMAL WELFARE

Gurkha campaigner vows to help plight of tigers trapped in 'farms'

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

HE'S helped Gurkhas settle in the UK, put pressure on the Government to stall price hikes for petrol, and now campaigner Peter Carroll has set his sights on the plight of the tiger.

Mr Carroll, from Folkestone, will be spearheading a push to get "battery farm" tiger farms in China closed down after being approached by famous wildlife artist and conservationist David Shepherd.

Mr Carroll explained: "People don't realise there are things called tiger farms. These places are like battery hen farms.

"There are rows of wire and concrete floors. Tigers are forced to breed quicker than they would in the wild and the cubs are taken from their mother at a young age. It is a horrid and revolting situation."

They are then killed to fuel the demand for a host of tiger-related products.

Mr Carroll added: "The farms stimulate the demand for skins and ridiculous products like tiger wine that is made up from the animal's crushed bones.

"The poachers see the demand and then just shoot a tiger in the wild because they don't want to bother to farm them. A cost of a

bullet compared to a tiger farm is nothing."

Explaining his involvement in the foundation, he said: "The campaign is part of the work carried out by David Shepherd's wildlife foundation. He had seen what I had done for the Gurkhas and asked if I would be able to do the same for the tiger.

"He is 80 now but he said he wanted to think that everything that could be done to save the tiger would be done before he dies."

Mr Carroll, who began the Gurkha Justice Campaign – recruiting Absolutely Fabulous actress Joanna Lumley as its high-profile figurehead – is now concentrating his efforts to get the farms closed for good.

The farms, say campaigners, endanger the few remaining animals left in the wild.

Mr Carroll, who previously ran a haulage business, also began Fair Fuel UK to lobby for lower fuel pump prices. He has brought in many well-known names to help raise awareness of tiger farms, including Ms Lumley, Ricky Gervais, Stephen Fry and model Sam Fox.

China's Premier Wen Jiabao has said the country will back policies to save the wild tiger but the country tolerates a



trade in products from tigers bred in captivity.

Mr Carroll said: "We believe the biggest farm may have as many as a couple of thousand tigers, but it is hard to get information. China has said they will allow a licensed trade in skins as long as they are not wild.

"The trouble is they are not open and there is no information about how the registration scheme might work.

"It is an awful scheme anyway. No one should be trading in tiger products. It keeps the trade going and it is a smoke screen for poaching."

Visit www.tigertime.info to find out more and sign up.

AT RISK:

There are now very few tigers remaining in the wild

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Reliant Robin's return

RELIANT Robins are staging an unlikely comeback – with Kent one of the hot-spots for the old-style three-wheelers.

The chariot of choice for Only Fools and Horses stars Del and Rodney, latest research has revealed Kent is second in the country for the number of Robins and its sister model the Reliant Regal Supervan in the county.

There are 1,852 on the county's roads – 10 years after production stopped.

➔ Scrotum blow for ace

GILLINGHAM footballer Chris Whelpdale is recovering after a tackle split his scrotum open during the team's League Two win away at table-toppers Crawley on Monday.

Club manager Andy Hessenthaler said: "He's probably going to have five stitches in his testicles, believe it or not. It's ripped his testicles open. It's a horrific injury and I'm sure his wife won't be too happy either." He was set to have to miss Friday's game at Dagenham.

➔ Comic unveils plaque

POORLY comic Dave Lee made an emotional return to Canterbury's new Marlowe Theatre to unveil a dressing room plaque to commemorate his 1,000th performance at the theatre – an achievement he chalked up in January 2009.

Ill health forced the popular funnyman to pull out of this year's pantomime – Cinderella – just weeks before the curtain went up on the show at the state-of-the-art new venue.

Mr Lee said: "I do miss not being in pantomime, but I'm glad to be back to see my dressing room plaque."

TRANSPORT

Night flights vital for airport's future, claim business chiefs

BUSINESS leaders in Thanet have demanded that night flights be given the go ahead at Manston airport in order to attract passenger airlines after Flybe confirmed it was to scrap its service to Edinburgh in March.

The firm said the route was not proving financially viable – thus delivering the latest blow to the terminal as it looks to establish itself within the mass market.

David Foley from Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce said: "Flybe has been a very good user at Manston and has brought in a new dimension but it is not the only airline in the world. If we can get an international carrier in then that will dwarf the few domestic flights Flybe operated."

Flybe also cancelled its Manchester service from the airport last year. In 2005, budget airline EUjet launched a host of services at Manston, but they collapsed due to a lack of demand.

The airport's owner Infratil has put in an application to Thanet council for more flights between 11pm and 7am. It says by 2018 they would average around 3.2 flights per night, but campaign groups are opposed to the idea.

Mr Foley argued airport expansion should be given the go ahead because it offered Thanet the best employment opportunities in

the medium term. He said: "The airport says it will deliver 3,000 jobs by 2018. The increase in air passenger duty is not good for airlines but it does put a greater emphasis on airports that can serve northern European hub airports.

"Manston is in a wonderful position to do that.

"Infratil is a very different company from EUjet. It has deeper pockets. It has pumped around £40m into Manston. It has been a benign investor in the best sense of the word. It is in the best position to plan its future strategy."

Manston airport chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "The decision by Flybe reinforces the need for the airport's proposals for limited and managed scheduled night-time flights to be agreed with Thanet District Council in order to compete with other national and regional airports."

Thanet council leader Cllr Clive Hart, said: "This is obviously disappointing news and will have an impact on the east Kent economy, but in the current economic climate, we can understand Flybe's decision.

"As we have made clear, the council will be consulting local people on the issue of night flights in the New Year."

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CRIME

Innocent motorists the unsuspecting victims in 'cash for crash' gang's £235k insurance scam

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A DOZEN men have been jailed for a 'cash for crash' scam where car collisions are staged to make bogus claims on insurance policies.

The plot targeted innocent motorists in Kent and Essex, with two 'crashes' taking place in the county on March 8.

One was filmed by police at the slip road onto the A2 at Dartford Heath, near Bexleyheath. It involved gang members driving eight times around the same roundabout to identify a potential target.

Southwark Crown Court was told an investigation was launched by the Traffic Crime Team, in January.

A gang, based in north east London, circled busy roundabouts identifying victims and forcing them to crash into their car in a nearby road.

Typically they would use two vehicles, a 'decoy' car and a second car, both of which contained their own people, the court was told.

Once a victim safely left a roundabout, the decoy car would induce a crash by making a last-minute manoeuvre in front of the second car.

This caused it to brake heavily resulting in the car behind, driven by an innocent member of the public, to crash into the second car.

The decoy car that caused the collisions always left the scene without stopping. This meant the innocent motorist was unable to see the 'at fault car' and left them swapping details with the passengers of the second car who would pretend to be victims of the crash.

The driver and passengers of the second vehicle would then try to claim large amounts of money from the insurance company for injury and hired replacement vehicles.

Ringleader Shahzada Fahad, 24, of Woodford Green, often drove the decoy car. Others either supplied their own vehicles or allowed their details to be used by 'passengers' in the second car in return for a modest sum. Some were actually in the car at the time, others just submitted claims saying they were.

The court heard if all the claims had been successful, it would have led to insurance losses of around £235,000.

All the men were all charged with conspiracy to defraud insurance companies. Eleven admit-



FLAWED: Police filmed one of the set-up crashes

ted the charges and one was found guilty.

Det Supt John Hollands said: "This organised criminal network had absolutely no regard for their victims; old or young – it was whoever was most convenient at that time."

"They became quite skilled at locating their victims, circling roundabouts like hawks to find them and submitting false claims. Thankfully, our detectives have put a stop to their dangerous and fraudulent activities."

"Unfortunately my team continuously investigate this sort of crime and that's why it's so important people are aware of it."

"If you are involved in a collision involving two other vehicles and the vehicle that caused the collision mysteriously disappears, be suspicious."

"Do take photographs on a camera or a mobile phone of damage caused, the drivers and occupants of the vehicles involved, but do not put yourself at risk to this."

The defendants, ranging in age between 24 and 42, received sentences between almost three years and 12 months, suspended for two years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Dog jammed in a pipe

A DOG which got stuck after exploring a concrete pipe on Christmas Day had to be rescued by a specialist emergency team.

Fire crews were called at around 7pm to Bullen Lane, East Peckham, after reports the male terrier was jammed in the pipe. They summoned specialists from the Urban Search and Rescue team who used snake-eye cameras and microphones designed to detect small noises caused by movement. The dog was found unhurt.

➔ Sheep death arrests

FOUR people have been arrested after 15 sheep were found dead and injured in a field in Wrotham, on Friday, December 16, after being run over by a car. The four, aged 24, 21, 19, and 15 are from St Pauls Cray and were arrested in Bromley. The 24-year-old man has been 'technically' bailed on suspicion of criminal damage until January 13, 2012, though he will remain in custody. The other men were remanded in custody by Bromley magistrates.

➔ Hot tub gets pinched

CROOKS have pinched a swanky £9,150 hot tub, which came complete with built-in music system, from a house near Canterbury - cutting down two trees to reach it.

The tub in Patricbourne was so heavy when it was installed in November, 2010, it had to be lifted over a boundary fence by a crane. It was swiped sometime between 9am on December 6 and 2pm on December 8.

EXPLORATION

Felicity's white Christmas on her 1,000 mile solo Antarctica mission

ADVENTURER Felicity Aston spent Christmas Day struggling against temperatures of -30C after passing the halfway point in an epic bid to become the first woman to traverse Antarctica using only a pair of skis.

She reached the South Pole in the week leading up to Christmas – and with it the halfway point of the 1,062-mile trek, which she hopes to complete in 70 days.

To make the challenge more impressive, she is doing the trip solo.

Ms Aston, 33, from Birchington, near Margate, got off to a bad start, though, when bad weather caused a 10-day delay.

She set off on her trek on November 25 from the Ross Ice Shelf, after jetting in from Argentina. Pulling two sledges with supplies, she reached the US research station at the geographic South Pole on December 20.

She said: "When the plane disappeared and left me on the wrong side of Antarctica all by myself with two little sledges, it really hit me that I'm completely responsible for myself."



TOUGH LOVE: Felicity Aston is crossing Antarctica

"It's just you. You have to sort out your problems, and that makes you feel vulnerable."

"Although the South Pole operates on New Zealand time, you can really pick your own time zone because the sun never rises or sets."

"It just goes round in a big circle in the sky. You can easily lose track of time."

She is keeping her followers up-to-date with regular

progress reports on social networking website Twitter.

One update read: "Yesterday was the first day I didn't burst into tears at any point. Must mean I'm getting used to this finally?"

Ms Aston is no stranger to the territory – she led an all-female team to the South Pole last year, but has gone back to do it all alone and cross the entire continent.

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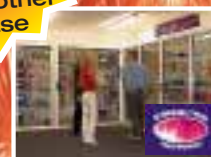
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News



DANCE

Come along to ballet event

ANGELINA Ballerina will be twirling her way into Tunbridge Wells next week as a pop-up store touches down at Royal Victoria Place.

Hosted by the Angelina Ballerina Dance Academy, a pop-up dance studio will give shoppers the chance to put down their bags and show off some moves.

Lessons will be led by local teacher Jo Christie who runs the academy's classes in Crowborough and Heathfield.

The studio will be in the shopping complex between 11am and 4pm on January 7 and 8. The special guest will be Angelina herself.

CRIME

Dogs are ready to join police patrols

COMING on the tail of an appeal for puppies to be trained as police dogs, five dogs have now 'passed out', and are on the scent of new crimes.

The animals successfully completed an intensive 13-week training programme.

The German Shepherds and their police officer handlers appeared before friends and family during a special ceremony at the Essex Police dog unit in Sandon, Chelmsford.

Among them was PC Andy Hill and his new dog Frank.

He is the first officer from Kent Police to train with Essex Police Dog Unit as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding for canine resources.

This is an agreement between the forces which states that either force can train officers on behalf of the other.

The officer said: "I have been a dog-handler for 14 years and this is my fourth basic course. It has been a great opportunity to see how another force trains. I have also learnt a lot of new



things and shared ideas that we practice in Kent."

The 19-year veteran based at Stockbury, covers the new Northern Division, taking in North Kent, Medway and Swale. He has also previously worked on several operations in Essex, as well as the V music festivals with his passive drugs dog Storm, a yellow Labrador.

The other four young dogs paired with Essex Police handlers are the first litter from the force's breeding programme launched last year.

During the coming weeks each of the police dog and handler teams will become operational, making their mark on divisions in both Kent and Essex to help combat crime.

High Rocks

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JANUARY-MARCH 2012

THE DRIFTERS

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News

CONSERVATION

2,000 new apple trees will keep fruit collection fresh

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

WORK has begun on replanting the largest collection of apple trees in the world.

More than 2,000 trees are being replaced at the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, near Faversham.

The task, which takes place every 25 years, is undertaken to ensure the continuing health of the fruit trees.

Tim Biddlecombe managing director of the Farm Advisory Services Team (FAST) which collates the collection said: "This is a mammoth undertaking which we have been planning for over two years.

"It will see two trees for every variety planted and recorded. The existing collection is over 35 years old and needed replanting to ensure we have the correct varieties and preserve the health and quality of the trees.

"If we were to leave the trees they would become increasingly prone to pests and disease. Commercial fruit growers take



DIGGING IN: A major planting programme is on at Brogdale

a similar approach but they typically replant every 15 to 20 years. The old trees will be kept until we can be certain the new ones are true to type."

Brogdale is owned by Defra and run by the University of Reading. The collection also includes hundreds of pear, cherry and plum trees along with vines and cobnuts. It is part of an international programme to protect the genetics of varieties of fruit trees for the future.

The new trees have been grown by a professional nursery using graft wood selected

from the existing collection.

Mr Biddlecombe said: "If the weather holds it will take a team of four people about a fortnight to plant the trees when work commences in earnest in early January. Winter is the best time to plant fruit trees and hopefully the good soil conditions we have at the moment will last into January."

Guided tours of the old trees will continue for visitors while the replanting programme takes place and the new trees get established.

Bernie Cranfield, marketing manager at Brogdale said: "The current apple collection will remain in place for a number of years and will continue to be open to the public from the spring.

"Guided tours of the new collection will take place next year and visitors will be able to see this fabulous collection of heritage British varieties, which date back to medieval times, and apples from around the world."

■ For more news and sport see www.yourswale.co.uk.



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News

RESOLUTIONS

Take a leap of faith with the top 40 things for men to do

By James Benjamin

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MALE? Stuck for a new year's resolution? Then Tonbridge Round Table hopes it can help with its list of the 40 things to do before you're 40.

Suggestions include a wide range of activities, from obvious milestones such as 'completing a bungee jump' to more surreal experiences like 'eating a whole scotch bonnet chilli'.

Jason Thomson, vice president of Round Table, said: "The aim of the 40 things to do before you're 40 list is to motivate men across the UK to get the most out of life.

"Everything on the list is achievable and indeed lots of our members have already accomplished many of the activities through their involvement with Round Table.

"We wanted to ensure that men in Tonbridge, and across Kent, continue to aim high and accomplish some amazing things in their lifetime."



TAKE THE PLUNGE: A bungee jump is one of the 40 things listed

The top five on the list include giving blood or becoming an organ donor, test driving a supercar, going clay pigeon shooting, growing a moustache and, number one, "ordering a vindaloo when you normally have a korma".

Mr Thomson added: "Almost every man out there will have

accomplished at least one thing on the list – most of us have experimented with growing a moustache, for example – but for those remaining, Round Table is here to help."

The club is open to all men aged 18-45.

To view the complete list visit www.roundtable.co.uk/top40.

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News

HIGH COURT

Restaurateur wins legal case against 'copycat' curry rival

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN AWARD-winning restaurant owner in Rochester has won a High Court battle against a rival which opened up with a similar name, artwork, logo and almost identical menus and takeaway bags.

Jamal Ahmed has run the Shozna restaurant in the city for 16 years and another eatery in nearby Strood. But he was left fuming after fielding complaints from customers of restaurant Shopna when it opened nearby, who thought he was serving up a shoddy service.

He said it was hurting his business, and when he was falsely accused of an assault, he decided he'd had enough and launched a High Court battle.

The court was told the Shopna looked almost identical to the Shozna. But when customers at the Shopna had cause for complaint, which was often said Jamal, they would ring him, and even show up at the Shozna for a public shouting match.

He said: "They would come in here and accuse me of providing a poor service with bad food and late deliveries. Sometimes they just didn't believe me that the other place had nothing to do with me. I tried to explain it just looked like my restaurants. I would have to show them my menus to prove it was not my restaurant."

"And, of course, for all of those that did complain, there must have been many that didn't bother and simply assumed the Shopna was



ALL SMILES: Jamal Ahmed who runs Shozna

mine and would avoid my restaurants. It was crazy and costing me customers."

He said he appealed through his own community for the owners of the Shopna to stop, but in the end it was forced to take legal action for "copying" his business.

Mr Ahmed said: "This was making me look like a joker in front of my community."

After a five-day hearing, Mr Justice Hildyard found in Mr Ahmed's favour on all grounds. He also ordered the defendants to pay Mr Ahmed more than £50,000 in costs.

The Shopna did change its name to Moiyuree, opening in Orion Road, Rochester, in February, but counsel for the defendants told the hearing that business has ceased trading.

■ More news at www.yourmedway.co.uk.

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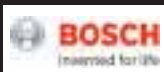
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News

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

More highs than lows helped us to rise above 2011's economic gloom

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IF EVER there was a theme to define 2011 it was surely going to be money. Or, to be more accurate, the lack of it.

The year kicked off with the deafening noises of councils across Kent warning of the harsh cost of reduced funding from the Government, and ended with the sound of throats being cleared ready for more bad news once the turkey left-overs are all gone and the New Year gets into full swing.

Yet amid all the doom and gloom, there have been some real stand out moments for Kent and Medway in 2011. In fact, for many areas, it has been something of a vintage year.

Take sunny Margate for example. The opening of the Turner Contemporary was a rare case of all the hype delivering genuine results. Visitor numbers far exceeded expectations and world class art did much to replace the more recent image of being the seaside town that time, and investment, forgot.

By the time the Queen made a trip to experience the gallery for herself in November, the green shoots of recovery were clearly sprouting. And with hopes high that its success will continue in 2012, and plans progressing nicely to turn the derelict Dreamland site into a multi-million pound heritage park, there is much to be excited about.

Meanwhile, just down the road in Canterbury, the curtain went up on the Marlowe Theatre – the new state-of-the-art replacement which rose above the city's skyline with remarkable speed and delivered a beating cultural heart into its already impressive offering.

Staying with a royal theme, the county got behind newlyweds Prince William and Kate Middleton in April when they tied the knot, with roads across Kent closing for celebrations and street parties.

The unlikely setting of Paddock Wood was the scene of a visit by rock royalty, as the singer Prince was the surprise headliner at this year's Hop Farm Festival, joining



CELEBRATE:

Streets all across the county were closed for a day in April as communities came out in force to mark the wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton

the likes of Morrissey and Lou Reed. Prince's greatest hits set left critics cooing and the organisers of the now three-day event rubbing their hands with glee at firmly establishing itself on the top table of the summer's music extravaganzas.

Lounge on the Farm in Canterbury may still be a somewhat niche event, yet the sun shone and the revellers lapped it up. However, there were some clouds as doubling its capacity also led to issues over traffic and reports of a rise in crime.

Going into January, it will be looking to secure a new licence from the city council after peace talks with the police during December.

Staying on music, charity Rhythm found itself in the headlines as the new series of X Factor got under way. The Tunbridge Wells and Brighton-based operation was left fuming after a girl group on the show announced it was to use their name. An increasingly bitter war of words erupted, primarily online, leading to Simon Cowell finally relenting – and making a donation to cover the charity's legal costs.

The group, meanwhile, changed their name to Little Mix and went on to win the competition.

There was another name change for west Kent's major hospital. After all the hype, the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury opened its multi-million pound new doors, offering more than 500 rooms, all private with en-suite facilities. The Kent & Sussex in Tunbridge Wells closed for the final time, but despite the clear benefits of such swanky

healthcare, concerns over the Private Finance Initiative that funded the hospital will just not go away.

Driving forward on the coast in Sandwich was Darren Clarke. His

Continued on page 16



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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Winners and losers in the corridors of power

Continued from page 15

emotional first major at golf's The Open in July was seen by millions around the world. Tiger Woods may have missed the event due to injury, but there was no harm to the county's economy, which banked £77m in cash and exposure.

Politically, Labour were given a boost at the May 5 local elections as they clawed back control in Gravesham and shared the spoils in Thanet. The Tories remained dominant, however, while

the Lib Dems were obliterated and their Alternative Vote referendum fell on deaf ears.

In Tunbridge Wells, council leader Roy Bullock's reign came to an undignified end as he was booted out by his fellow Tories. His mighty moustache replaced by the more modest beard and 'tache combo of Cllr Bob Atwood.

Cllr Paul Carter faced a challenge to his leadership of Kent County Council, but rather than a body blow it left him merely with a bruised big toe. He won the contest easily. Not staying at

County Hall, however, was Katherine Kerswell, KCC's managing director. After weeks of speculation and some rather ludicrous denials from the council, to the surprise of frankly no-one, it was announced she was off at the end of December – and taking with her a pay-off rumoured to be in the region of £450,000.

Best not mention that to the striking public sector workers then, who in November paraded through the streets of Maidstone at Government cuts to their pensions.

In what was seen as one of the biggest blows to the Kent economy, in February, Pfizer announced it was to shut up shop and move out of its Sandwich base. The repercussions were severe. In addition to the 2,500 it employed, that figure was almost doubled when it came to the knock-on effect for local suppliers.

As the year progressed, Pfizer said it would retain a small presence with 650 staff, while the site it occupied has since welcomed its first new tenant, with Enterprise Zone status hopefully the carrot to lure other employers to move in.

For the good folk of Medway – and to an extent Swale – the phrase “airport” is likely to continue ringing in their ears for a good while yet.

After an assumption that Boris Johnson's long-touted proposals for an airport in the Thames Estuary were simply his latest hare-brained scheme, it developed momentum in 2011. And by the time renowned architect Lord Foster unveiled detailed plans to build an international airport hub on the Isle of Grain, it went from “pie in the sky” to “well, just maybe”. When George



SPEAKING OUT: Workers made their voices heard during a mass walk out in November

Osborne announced in his autumn statement the Government was to look at the proposals, it quickly became apparent this was not about to go away. Whether it is actually any closer to becoming a reality is far from certain. But expect it to dominate headlines for a while yet.

It is difficult to see 2012 being anything other than more of the same economically, yet as 2011 has proved, while we may all be feeling the pinch, there is much to look forward to, celebrate and feel proud of across Kent and Medway.

So here's to hoping we cash in on the Olympic Games, have a right royal knees-up for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and, dare we dream, actually get a long hot summer for once.

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KENT REMEMBERED



Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

STRIKING BEAUTY: The medieval ruins of Sutton Valence Castle look out across the Kent countryside

The hidden history of Kent's forgotten castle

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT is justifiably famous for its castles, which include imposing Dover, beautiful Leeds, the Tudor shoreline forts of Deal and Sandwich, and the massive keep at Rochester.

But tucked out of the way in the village of Sutton Valence is one of the most atmospheric ruins in southern England.

Its story is little known nowadays, it's not really a tourist destination, and there are scant facts available as to its ownership and history from the start of the 14th century onwards.

But in the century prior to that time, researchers have linked the stone fortress with some colourful figures from the age of knights, kings, queens, chivalry and warfare.

Sutton Valence Castle is currently owned and managed by English Heritage, but it was in the hands of some extremely important lords during the Middle Ages after it was built to command the road linking Maidstone with Winchelsea, then an important port.

It is believed the Norman count of Aumale, Baldwin de Bethune, probably built the castle in the middle of the 12th century.

But its most famous lord and master was Simon de Montfort, sixth Earl of Leicester, who acquired it in 1238.

His father, who had the same name, was the leader of one of the most notorious episodes of French medieval history – the Albigenian Cru-



sade which resulted in the massacre of thousands of Cathar "heretics" on the orders of the Catholic Church – and also resulted in the founding of the Holy Inquisition.

The most famous incident of the campaign saw the escape of a number of Cathar holy men from the besieged mountain-top fortress of Montségur – and according to some legends they carried the Ark of the Covenant and even the Holy Grail away with them.

The younger de Montfort left France in 1229 after inheriting lands in England, he then became an advisor to King Henry III, marrying his sister Eleanor.

But he disagreed with the King and was the leader of a group of seven barons who forced Henry to give some of his power to a council of 15 barons and a parliament.

After the King obtained authority from the Pope to break his promise, civil war broke out, and de Montfort's

army captured Henry at the Battle of Lewes.

In 1265 he called a parliament and for the first time in English history representatives of the boroughs were members, as well as the nobility.

Later that year de Montfort was killed at the Battle of Evesham and power was restored to Henry.

The King then seized his opponent's estates and gifted what we now call Sutton Valence Castle to his half-brother, William de Valence, as a reward for his support during the rebellion. The village of Sutton, possibly derived from 'south town' became known as Sutton Valence.

William's son, Aymer de Valence, inherited the castle in 1307 and stayed here in June, 1315. Three of the Valence household accounts of the time have survived. They show the family spent their time constantly travelling between their many estates. In the period between May, 1296, and September, 1297, Joan de Valence – by then the widow of William – spent a month in residence.

The stone keep, overlooking the Weald of Kent, is all that remains of the fort which occupied a large part of the hill during its heyday.

English Heritage says it was at least three storeys high and the ground floor was most likely used as a storeroom, and external stone stairs led to the main entrance on the first floor.

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OPINION

The hidden cost of parking

Terry Hudson, Kent co-ordinator for the Association of British Drivers, considers the impact parking fees and fines have on shopping habits

"REVENUE should not be an objective of civil parking enforcement, nor should authorities set targets for revenue or the number of penalty charge notices (PCN) they issue." This statement is from the Department for Transport operational guidance manual to all local authorities on how they should conduct their parking regulations.

The manual also states that parking legislation "is not a revenue raising act", which, put simply, means all monies received can only be spent on administration of the scheme, or (and this is where it gets a bit blurred), "any surpluses to improve off-street parking, or, where this is unnecessary or undesirable, for certain other transport-related purposes and environmental schemes".

Yet all over the country we are witnessing the rapid rise in parking charges being used

for general revenue raising and by the installation of pay-and-display machines on roads that we have paid for many times over through the decades, by various forms of motoring taxes and household rates.

Of course these machines can earn councils millions of pounds in fines if you are unfortunate enough to over-stay.

It is worth noting that the Department of Transport manual states "parking restrictions should be enforced efficiently, fairly and with proper regard to the rights of the motorist". Draw your own conclusions.

Civil enforcement officers, or traffic wardens as they used to be called, have a duty to ensure correct signage is in place and legible and that painted road lines are not defective or faded, before issuing a PCN. If there is any doubt, then the PCN should not be issued.

Such is the condition of

many road markings, they are no longer legal, but PCNs are still issued. Safe knowledge that most drivers will not challenge them and would have to contend with a hostile complaints system if they did.

While the judiciary argues the finer points of the Human Rights Act for non-British nationals, when it comes to abuse by those in authority of parking laws, it turns a blind eye.

I think most of us have, at some time, stared at a parking restriction sign and read it a few times to attempt to make sense of the wording. Most drivers know the meaning of double yellow lines; but does a single line mean I can park there during the day if it is Bank Holiday? Some places allow you to park half on the pavement, others not, even shop forecourts can fall into this yes/no scenario. Can I stop and let a passenger out on a single yellow line?



6699

There is a rapid rise in parking charges used for general revenue raising

The Association of British Drivers believes there should be one national policy, policed by an independent un-biased ombudsman. If there is some really necessary local exemption, then it should be very clearly marked.

Any form of national policy is scorned by those private companies or councils, because this mish-mash of laws is for them, very financially rewarding.

But what is the unseen financial cost to expensive parking taxes and entrapment? A look down many high streets tells us: empty shops. We instead shop in supermarkets and places like Bluewater with their free and limitless parking.

So next time you are out shopping and have paid for your allotted time, keep looking at your watch, as any over-stay could be expensive.

Does this really make for a good shopping experience?

KOS COMMENT

New Year's resolution that could save a life

DONATED blood is one of those things many of us take for granted. We assume it will be there when we need it if we are involved in an accident or have a major operation.

It is all too easy to forget that the blood service relies on a band of volunteers who happily give up the red stuff for the benefit of the rest of us.

Kent's health chiefs are worried the Olympic Games, Queen's Diamond Jubilee and other major events like the Euro football tournament will lead to a drop in donations.

Surely most of us can drag ourselves away from the TV for a couple of hours to contribute a few pints. As New Year's resolutions go, it's not a bad one.

Have a happy 2012

AT Archant KOS Media we are proud to serve our readers and advertisers, and we would like to thank you all for the support you have given us in 2011.

In these times of economic uncertainty it's difficult to predict just what the next 12 months will provide for Kent, so let us wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



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Letters/emails/texts/tweets



Tunbridge Wells in the snow
by Dan Smith

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Portas' policy worth a listen

MARY Portas, the shopping guru appointed by David Cameron, has criticised the Medway towns – and Medway Council is not pleased.

The town chiefs are taking steps necessary to breath new life into them.

She says that towns should be more inviting and also offer lower parking charges.

Medway Council says they are doing just that. How?

Take Chatham, for example: there are about 50 or so empty shop units in the High Street.

Why? We have about five pawnbrokers and money shops in the High Street, which is not a very good sign for a prosperous town. There are only a few shops that could attract visitors and tourists to flock here.

There are hardly any public toilets, and what there are aren't signposted to let visitors

know where they are. The roads are filthy and there are beggars on the streets.

The parking charges might be the lowest in Kent, but the restrictions are for 14 hours a day, seven days a week, which most towns don't have.

The council knows that parking charges keep people away, that's why they offer free parking in the run-up to Christmas to boost trade.

Traders need a boost all-year-round, not just Christmas.

The council has frozen the charges for three years now, but how much will they charge when the three years are up?

The bus station is a disaster. It is situated in the wrong place where people freeze even in the shelters. The bus services are not very good and the fares are far too high.

What the council needs to do to attract people here is to give shoppers up to four hours' free parking, free parking on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays, and also free parking after 6pm. If not, more people

will desert our towns even further and go to the seven out-of-town shopping outlets that are around the Medway towns area.

So come on Medway Council – listen to Mary Portas and let's get our towns moving.

Peter Nassan, Chatham

High streets a big dilemma

I READ with interest Mary Portas' comments on the state of the high streets in the UK and how to breathe new life into them.

The natural reaction is to mock and pour scorn on many of them as they seem so opposite to what we have seen in recent generations; namely the continued growth of retail areas and a desperate desire to attract more and more big-name chain stores.

Yet it would be worth the town centre chiefs of Kent and Medway to take heed.

We are in an environment

now where the internet is our first port of call when it comes to making a purchase.

Even the rise in online supermarket orders suggests that even if we all followed Sittingbourne's example and encouraged more supermarkets to open stores back in the heart of town centres, it doesn't necessarily equate to more crowds – although I take heart that in the case of The Forum, it has.

Our high streets can still be vibrant, attractive places, but we do need to shift our focus.

I would urge all with an interest to consider a healthy dollop of culture instead.

That way it can make town centre's safer, encourage the much-admired café-culture enjoyed on the Continent, and attract those with disposable income back into our town centres.

Or, we can point fingers at Portas and ignore it. But one thing is certain, the problems are not going to go away.

H Pearce, Sheppey

Professional EU approach

FOR those people who work in the European Union, a proposal published by the European Commission will assist professional workers in having their qualifications recognised across the single market, whilst tightening up protection against rogue or ineffective workers.

The new proposals will simplify and reduce the number of regulated professions, and create a single portal with information about how to have qualifications recognised.

My Conservative colleagues have also pushed for a warning system for healthcare professionals so that a ban on practising medicine in one country would be conveyed to all EU authorities, with added tests for national authorities to be able to test the language skills of healthcare professionals.

I believe these proposals will make it easier for qualified professional to apply for jobs across the single market, and harder for unqualified professionals to gain employment in sensitive sectors.

The automatic recognition of qualifications is an important benefit of the single market and we must break down the remaining barriers.

We need to move to a system where we prevent a repetition of several tragic cases where foreign doctors have mistreated patients because of inadequate training or a poor command of the local language. These new rules aim to prevent a repeat of this situation.

In the UK stronger language requirements on healthcare professionals is now a pressing concern. This new directive should allow healthcare authorities in particular the opportunity to test language skills. It is simply not right that a nurse treating a patient is unable to fully understand what he or she is being told.

Let me know what you think at richardjames.ashworth@europarl.europa.eu

Richard Ashworth, Conservative MEP for the South East

Charity's call for volunteers

ARE you looking for a New Year's resolution that is fun, interesting, sociable, and can make a huge difference to other people?

If so, Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) is looking for people across Kent to volunteer with the charity.

There's a huge variety of roles on offer; you could be supporting young disabled people acquire the vital skills that will help them live independently, assisting someone drive to their local sports centre, befriending, campaigning – or even adding a lick of paint to one of our 200 UK services and homes.

LCD's 3,000 volunteers are crucial to our success, and we'd be delighted if you'd join this amazing team.

We welcome all applicants and are particularly keen to support more disabled people to volunteer with us.

Visit www.lcdisability.org.uk to see what volunteering is available near you.

Begona Mendez, Leonard Cheshire Disability

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
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Advertising:
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Environment centre secures £2m funding

'Outstanding' diversity at UCA

AN Ofsted report has declared that the University for the Creative Arts' (UCA) promotion of equality and diversity across its five campuses including Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester is "outstanding".

The report, which focuses on UCA's Further Education (FE) courses, was compiled after several days of visits to each of the campuses.

UCA secured an overall rating of good with equality, and diversity achieving the grade of outstanding.

The inspection took the form of group and individual interviews to gain the views of learners. There were also observations of learning sessions and assessments.

The report reads: "Managers and staff have created a culture of trust leading to high expectations for students and an atmosphere where experimentation and creativity flourish. Tutors and staff are proud to work at the university."

Deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Mark Hunt, said: "At UCA we are extremely proud of our FE provision which gives students a solid grounding in the creative arts. We are delighted with the inspection outcome."

Learn all about apprenticeships

THE fifth annual National Apprenticeship Week will take place from February 6-10, 2012, and is set to be the biggest and best yet.

The week, co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), celebrates apprenticeships and their benefits to individuals and businesses.

Vic Grimes, NAS divisional apprenticeship director for London and the South East, said: "This year we are showcasing the talent, skills and high calibre of apprentices. Their employers want the country to understand just how apprenticeships bring real quantifiable benefits to their businesses.

"Everyone with an interest in apprenticeships can get involved. There is a whole host of practical advice and ideas to help you plan your own activities on our website. Please look at the list of events to see what is happening in your area and let us know what you're planning."

For more information about National Apprenticeship Week visit apprenticeships.org.uk or email nighat.mashhadi@apprenticeships.gov.uk

A COLLEGE is celebrating as it secures funding for a new sustainable Centre for Environmental Technologies.

The Skills Funding Agency has granted £2 million towards the Thanet College centre.

The new £6.5m centre will be the first of its kind in Kent and will open for business at the Broadstairs campus in September, 2013.

Its development is in response to significant local 'green' training opportunities and goes hand in hand with the Government's recognition of the need for the UK to develop a workforce with real expertise and skills in the renewable sector.

Graham Razey, principal of Thanet College said: "We are delighted that this important development has been given the go ahead.

"The new centre will put Thanet College centre stage to deliver leading-edge education and training in environmental technologies."

The centre is expected to be of benefit to the area as a whole, with Mr Razey adding: "This will allow people in East Kent to take advantage of real employment opportunities within a rapidly growing sector with local companies such as the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, Thanet Earth, the proposed 'green' power park at Richborough and more specifically the Green Deal.

"The state-of-the-art facilities are also designed to offer

higher-level apprenticeships in science and technology, linked to the emerging training needs of the companies establishing themselves at the Discovery Park in Sandwich, and we believe will play an important part in attracting new businesses to the park in the future."

The field of environmental technologies is a specialist area of focus for Thanet College and will enhance parts of the existing technology curriculum such as construction, computing, electrical installation, general engineering, and motor vehicles.

New qualifications to be offered from September, 2012, include sustainable construction, micro-generation (solar and wind), hybrid and electric vehicle technology and energy conservation.

The new building itself will be an opportunity to showcase renewable technologies in action and seeks to achieve a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) rating of excellence.

Sustainable features include a small wind turbine, photovoltaics (solar panels), biomass heating, a geothermal heat pump, rainwater harvesting and the maximisation of natural daylight.

The centre is designed with flexible workshops and teaching spaces which can be easily adapted to accommodate the future education and training needs of this dynamic sector.

POWER: People will be able to develop their employability in the field of sustainable energy



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Business Week

Your business is our business

Inquiry focuses on fixing the skills shortage faced by our small firms

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Federation Of Small Businesses (FSB) and All Party Parliamentary Small Business Group (APPSBG) have launched an inquiry into entrepreneurship as new figures show that almost a third of small businesses at start-up stage have difficulty finding suitably-skilled staff.

New statistics into the barriers small businesses face when starting up show that 27 per cent of small businesses found it difficult to find suitably-skilled staff. With unemployment at 2.62 million and youth unemployment more than a million and set to rise, this is a worrying figure, says the federation.

Respondents to the FSB Voice Of Small Business Survey Panel

also said they found regulation requirements onerous (47 per cent) and had difficulty securing finance (34 per cent) at start-up.

These figures came as the FSB and APPSBG launched an inquiry with Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, into entrepreneurship to see how these barriers could be removed.

With 95 per cent of private-sector businesses employing fewer than 20 members of staff, the inquiry will look at how these firms can be encouraged to take on staff and how aspiring entrepreneurs can be supported in setting up their own business against a backdrop of uncertain economic times.

The Government has introduced a raft of new measures aimed at supporting entre-

preneurs. However, the FSB's Voice Of Small Business Index and the FSB Kent Small Business Barometer show employment intentions and business confidence have dropped.

For small businesses looking to grow, there are still fundamental problems with hiring skilled staff, regulations and access to finance.

The FSB is calling on the Government to:

- Reinstate the graduate internship scheme to give graduates the opportunity to acquire the skills they need for starting and running a business.

- Prioritise enterprise education by putting it in the statutory curriculum.

- Take on the Independent Commission On Banking's recommendations for more competition in the banking sector.

- Extending Work Trials to the first day someone signs on to Jobseekers Allowance to help create 46,000 more jobs.

- Reduce the flow of regulation and tackle the stock of existing regulations.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Challenges posed to entrepreneurs will vary, but we know from our members that common issues at start-up include finding suitably-skilled staff, complex regulation and access to finance. And coming up against these at the very beginning can prevent growth.

"With the private sector being relied on to drive economic recovery, these barriers need to be removed – budding entrepreneurs should be supported in setting up in business, and existing businesses should be

encouraged to innovate, take on staff and grow. This inquiry will cover a raft of issues and, working with the Government, we hope these issues can be put to bed once and for all."

Brian Binley MP, chairman of the APPSGB, said: "We hear from small businesses that they are finding it difficult to get staff with the skills necessary to run their firms. Small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs are expected to be driving economic growth in support of Britain's recovery.

"I am hopeful this inquiry will address the challenges of rising youth unemployment and the skills crisis.

"Our review will be looking at ways of improving those basic skills [in schools] as well as the more advanced skills to meet industry's needs."

TRANSPORT

Stagecoach wins commendation

A KENT company has featured in the prestigious 2011 UK Bus Awards.

Stagecoach East Kent received a High Commendation in the Marketing Excellence awards for the marketing and development of the Canterbury Triangle, which connects the city with villages and towns across east Kent.

UK Bus Awards chairman John Owen said: "In these difficult and uncertain times, we've been both surprised and delighted by the number and quality of entries for the 2011 UK Bus Awards.

"The combination of rising fuel prices and cuts in public spending are making life particularly difficult for everybody involved in bus-service provision at the moment. Even so, our judges were really impressed by the commitment to quality and innovation shown by bus-operators, local authorities and their partners in this, the awards' 16th year.

"Over five billion passenger journeys are made by bus every year, and the industry has a huge amount to offer in delivering reduced congestion and emissions. The finalists are paving the way for the future success of an industry which remains firmly at the heart of our national life."



GROWTH



African expansion for water consultants

INTERNATIONAL environmental company SLR Consulting, based at Turkey Mill, Maidstone, has expanded its services in southern Africa with the acquisition of Bittner Water Consult CC (BIWAC), a groundwater consulting firm based in Namibia.

The deal is SLR's fifth acquisition in 20 months and its third in southern Africa in the last year, following the purchase of environmental consultancy Metago and engineering firm GreenEng.

BIWAC, which has an office in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, specialises in the sustainable development, protection and management of water resources for a range of clients. These include private firms, multinational mining

and manufacturing companies as well as local and state government bodies.

Recent projects include the groundwater modelling of the Omitomire Copper Mine, support for the development of Otjikoto Gold Mine and groundwater monitoring and modelling for Langer Heinrich Uranium.

SLR UK director Neil Penhall said: "SLR has world-class capabilities in both mining and southern Africa and we work for a range of both national and international clients. The acquisition of BIWAC is in line with our strategy to grow our environmental consultancy footprint and to capitalise on the opportunity for growth in the African mining sector."

COMMUNICATION

Firms combine on expansion plans

ANSACOM, the Tunbridge Wells telephone-answering company, is working with Canterbury marketing company The Purple Edge to support the next phase of its expansion.

It is set to begin operations in Faversham in the coming months.

"We have grown consistently since 2001 by providing a really professional and highly personalised service," said managing director Claire Burroughs. "Winning the West Kent Business Excellence Award for customer service last year was recognition for the hard work we put into this area, but the greatest accolade is that the majority of our new business comes from word-of-mouth recommendation by our happy customers. Now we want to get the word out to a wider audience.

"We have won some significant contracts to provide call-centre services to businesses such as Microsoft and The London Array and we're expanding with additional offices."

Sharon Wilding from The Purple Edge said: "AnsaCom is a great company who pull off the trick of meeting the needs of larger clients while maintaining the personal touch with the smaller ones.

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For job description and application form please contact:
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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence Easter 2012

MPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,535
(TLR with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 20th January 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

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HAIR AND BEAUTY COMMERCIAL SALON MANAGER / ASSISTANT MANAGER:

We are seeking applicants with hairdressing or beauty therapy experience for the following two positions. Ideally, we would wish to employ someone with a different specialism for each position.

HAIR & BEAUTY COMMERCIAL SALON MANAGER

Thanet College has an excellent opportunity for a HAIR AND BEAUTY COMMERCIAL SALON MANAGER, in our new high specification salon.

As salon manager you will report directly to our Business Manager. You will effectively manage the hair and beauty commercial salon and respective team of established and trainee staff. You will be responsible for setting and achieving financial targets, analysing sales and forecast predictions, managing stock control, maximising retail opportunities, merchandising and effective promotions, providing a full range of treatment/services in line with commercial trends, whilst ensuring an excellent customer service.

First and foremost it is essential that you have strong organisational and management abilities in order to drive, mentor and manage this commercial venture. Excellent communication and a passion for the industry is paramount.

Salary: £25,000 with 25 days annual leave.

Interview date: 30 January 2012

HAIR & BEAUTY ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL SALON MANAGER

Thanet College has an excellent opportunity for an ASSISTANT HAIR AND BEAUTY COMMERCIAL SALON MANAGER, in our new high specification salon.

As assistant salon manager you will report directly to the Commercial Salon Manager. You will assist with supervision of respective established and trainee staff. You will carry out a full range of treatment/services in line with commercial trends, whilst providing excellent customer service. You will be responsible for providing assessment support for trainee staff.

First and foremost it is essential that you have a 'can do' attitude with excellent communication and a passion for the industry.

Salary: £20,000 with 23 days annual leave

Interview Date: 31 January 2012

Closing date: 6 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

CRANBROOK ROAD, BIDDENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to carry out a new water connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Mockbeggar Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Chapel Lane and Mockbeggar Lane.

The alternative route is via Chapel Lane, A262 Sissinghurst Road, Tenterden Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road.

OX LANE, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ox Lane, Tenterden, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 19 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Swain Road and Barnfield.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A28 Ashford Road / Silver Hill and Swain Road.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road and Swain Hill.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order introducing traffic movement restrictions as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 2nd January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned last 11 weeks or until the works are completed. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

The Affected Routes	The Temporary Restriction
West Hill, Dartford	One way traffic flow eastbound from Shepherds Lane to Highfield Road North
Highfield Road, Dartford	Road Closed to through traffic. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses
Highfield Road North, Dartford	One way traffic flow from West Hill to Westgate Road eastbound
Spital Street, Dartford	Two way traffic between Kent Road and West Hill, NO access to West Hill

Diversion for the above restrictions will be via: Kent Road, Spital Street, Hythe Street, Home Gardens, Overy Liberty, Market Street, Lowfield Street, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane. (From Instone Road, Highfield Road, and Heath Street then onto previous diversion at Lowfield Street)

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works for mains replacement for Southern Gas Networks.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

LIVERPOOL ROAD, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair a damaged sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Liverpool Road, Walmer, on or after 16 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cambridge Road and Grove Road.

The alternative route is via Cambridge Road, A258 Dover Road and Liverpool Road.

LOWER ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Road, River, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pavilion Meadow and Minnis Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Alkham Road and Minnis Lane.

The alternative route is via Alkham Road, London Road, Crabble Road, Lewisham Road and Minnis Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, COBHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 2nd January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via schedule 1:

Schedule 1

Road name: Jeskyns Road, Cobham
Date: 3rd January 2012 for 4 weeks
Extent: Between its junctions with Sole Street and B390 Dabbs Place.
Diversion: Sole Street, Round Street, Church Street and Henhurst Road

Road name: D390 Dabbs Place, Cobham
Date: 23rd January 2012 for 4 weeks
Extent: Between its junctions with Jeskyns Road and Round Street
Diversion: Round Street, Sole Street and Jeskyns Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Water main renewal work.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOW HILL, NETTLESTEAD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bow Hill at the Level Crossing on or after Saturday 7th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 nights between 23.40hrs and 04.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2015 Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2163 Teston Lane/Lower Road, B2010 Smiths Hill, Hunt Street, Bow Hill.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for changing rails and tamping at the level crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne on 01924 372957.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WARREN STREET, WICHLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Warren Street from the junction of Payden Street to "The Hollies" on or after Monday 2nd January 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete. The alternative route is via Hubbards Hill, A20 Ashford Road, Faversham Road, Payden Street.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new drainage pipe. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CANADA FARM ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or

near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Canada Farm Road, South Darenth between Three Gates Road and Rabbits Road.

The Order will become effective on 16th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30th January 2012 and will 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Scudders Hill, Valley Road, Fawkham Road Fawkham, Main Road Longfield, Green Street Green Road Londfield, Canada Farm Road Longfield, Canada Farm Road South Darenth.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate drainage works.

COMPASSES HILL LEIGH - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Compasses Hill from

Camp Hill to B2027 Penshurst Road Leigh.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: approaching from the East, West along B2027 Penshurst Road, North and East along Camp Hill. The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

PROSPECT ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Prospect Road Junction Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks.

The Order will become effective on 15th January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 16th January 2012 and will last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, Cobden Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas mains replacement.

STATION ROAD (BLOWERS HILL) COWDEN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council hereby make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road (Blowers Hill) from the Railway Bridge to Junction of Cow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 02 January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 07 January 2012 and will last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Road, Hartfield Road, Station Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate water mains replacements.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

FAIRFIELD ROAD, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fairfield Road, New Romney, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cannon Street and Oak Lodge Road.

The alternative route is via Fairfield Road, George Lane, A259 Dymchurch Road, St Mary's Road and Fairfield Road.

GRIMSTON AVENUE AND WESTBOURNE GARDENS, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grimston Avenue and Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

GRIMSTON AVENUE will be closed at the junction with Sandgate Road.

The alternative route is via Bouverie Road West and Earls Avenue.

WESTBOURNE GARDENS will be closed at the western junction with Sandgate Road.

The alternative route is via the eastern junction with Sandgate Road.

HIGH STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Hythe, on or after 3 January 2012 for an estimated period up to 26 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling phases working from Douglas Avenue towards Bank Street.

There is no alternative route. Local businesses have been consulted to make alternative arrangements for deliveries.

The Order which made Theatre Street a No Through Road will be suspended whilst the works are being carried out between Douglas Avenue and Theatre Street, with its through use limited to deliveries.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

STONE LEVEL CROSSING, BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace rails, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Level Crossing, Buckland, Faversham on or after 22 January 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 22 January 2012 at 1.50 am until Monday 23 January 2012 at 4.10 am.

Lower Road will be closed at Stone Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Buckland Farm Road and Elverton Lane.

The alternative route is via Lower Road, Lower Norton Lane, A2 London Road, Four Oaks Road and Lower Road.

VICARAGE LANE, LOWER HALSTOW (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vicarage Lane, Lower Halstow, on or after 3

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

January 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with School Lane and The Street.

The alternative route is via School Lane and The Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet**SEVENSORE LEVEL CROSSING, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable Network Rail to carry out level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sevenscore Level Crossing, Minster, from 7 January 2012 as shown below.

Ebbsfleet Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 7 January 2012 at 2.00 am until Monday 9 January 2012 at 2.00 am.

There is no alternative route, as the road is now a No Through Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 39) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be:-

**Grange Road, Ramsgate
No waiting at any time (double yellow lines).**

On the western side between points 15m and 55m south of the junction with Ellington Road (to the existing bus stop)

On the eastern side from the junction with Ellington Road for a distance of 28m in a southerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8DH, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Development Planning Manager, Highways and Transportation, Kent County Council, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 23 January 2012 in the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COACH ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Coach Road Ightham, between Sandy Lane and Pine tree Lane on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Ismay Road, Back Lane and Sandy Lane.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary for work to be carried out to install new gully's, frames and covers. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Alastair Coleman on 07500080065.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (GIBBETT LANE, HORSMONDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Gibbett Lane outside of number 2 on or after Monday 16th January 2012 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2162 Maidstone Road, Brenchley Road, Furnace Lane, Gibbett Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of TMS Traffic Management Company Limited on 01622 632519

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A26 ST JOHN'S ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (SUSPENSION OF BUS LANE) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order to suspend the bus lane on A26 St John's Road between Woodbury Park Road and the roundabout on or after Monday 16th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new water supply. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amelia Faulkin of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873084.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 1st January 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways




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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
- 6..This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 18 January 2012

SW/11/0918 &
SW/11/0919:

5 replacement windows on principle elevation, 1 replacement window on north elevation, 1 replacement window on east elevation and 1 new window on east elevation where previously bricked-up - The Old Farmhouse, Lower Hartlip Road, HARTLIP; - **REASON 2**

SW/11/0999 &
SW/11/1000:

Replacement of white UPVC external front door with a victorian style malton glazed hardwood door - 51 St Marys Road, FAVERSHAM; - **REASON 1**

SW/11/1376:

Part change of use to Bed & Breakfast - 104 The Street, BOUGHTON; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1435:

Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of redundant water tower and pumping station - The Water Tower, Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1464 &

SW/11/1562:

Garage and domestic storage outbuilding rebuild - Homestall Farmhouse, Homestall Road, DODDINGTON; **REASON 2**

SW/11/1522:

Variation of condition 3 of planning permission NK/8/59/49 to allow the caravans to be occupied between 1st March and 3rd January in any year - Central Beach Holiday Park, Grove Avenue, LEYSDOWN; **REASON 3 & 4**

SW/11/1524:

Listed Building Consent for removal of modern porch - Town Place Cottage, Throwley Road, Belmont, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/11/1525:

Variation of Condition (5) of application reference NK/8/50/101 to extend the season from eight months to ten months for the period from 1st March to 3rd January in each year - Shurland Dale (Former Bramley Park), Second Avenue, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

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1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 18 January 2012

SW/11/1147:

Change of use from multi occupancy to two 2 bedroom flats - 5 Station Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1286:

Change of use of ground and first floors from a print making workshop and art gallery to 2 two bedroom self contained flats - 99 Ospringe Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1385:

Retrospective application for single storey rear extension - 7 Cremer Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 4**

SW/11/1441

Single storey side extension - Wickham House, TUNSTALL; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1421:

Single storey rear extension - 15 Edith Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1504:

Replace existing kitchen window - 48 The Mall, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1513:

Erection of 2 elevator systems adjacent to two grainstores - New Hook Farm, Lower Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 4**

SW/11/1521

Variation of condition (ii) of planning permission NK/4/79/71 to allow occupation of caravans from 1st March to 3rd January in any year - Brookside Leisure Park, First Avenue, EASTCHURCH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/11/1526:

Proposed extension to farm managers bungalow - The Keepers Bungalow, Little Sharsted, Sharsted Road, DODDINGTON; **REASON 2**

SW/11/1560:

Change of use, extension and alterations to part of former cold store building to ground floor class B2 use for meat preparation and first floor class B1 business use - Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, OSPRINGE

SW/11/1573:

Single storey rear extension and conversion of loft space - 108 Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/11/1574 &

SW/11/1575:

Restoration and conversion of coach-house into 2 bedroom dwelling - demolition of single storey partly ruined rear extension and part of garden wall - 87 St Anns Cross Coach-House, South Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/11/1577 &

SW/11/1578:

Construction of two storey and single storey rear extension and renovation works - 1 Orchard Cottages, 9 Ashford Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/11/1576 &

SW/11/1579:

Construction of single storey rear extension and side porch plus minor renovation works - 2 Orchard Cottages, 11 Ashford Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

James Freeman
Head of Planning

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/1583/S - LAKELANDS, CLAPPER LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0JT - Erection of first floor side extensions, rear balcony, conversion of integral garaging to living accommodation and erection of entrance gates and walls (resubmission of MA/11/0269). **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2010/S - CRISBROOK HOUSE, CAVE HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DU - Change of use of land for the stationing of a container for the storage of equipment and tools in association with the maintenance of ponds and land in the lower Loose Valley. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/2080/N - 29 TO 39, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LJ - Proposed extension and refurbishment of 6 No. almshouses, including demolition of existing single storey rear extensions. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/2093/N - 29 TO 39, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LJ - Listed building consent for proposed extension and refurbishment of 6 No. almshouses, including demolition of existing single storey rear extensions. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/2103/S - BARHAM COURT, TONBRIDGE ROAD, TESTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5BZ - Variation of condition 1 of planning permission MA/04/2335 to allow for amplified music to be played outside the building on a maximum of three days per calendar year. **Reason: 1, 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **15th January 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 1st January 2012



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1, SITTINGBOURNE

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU1)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZU1 between NGR TQ 918 650, just south of the new Milton Creek Road crossing, and NGR TQ 919 652, Church Wharf, from the 16th January 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before mid May 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is available and will be marked locally as work progresses and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council

Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent

ME14 1XX

Dated: 1st January 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
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8pm) or visit
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Omid Djalili is back on stage for his much-anticipated Tour Of Duty

SEE PAGE 33



SWEET TREATS

Furry friend enjoys a truly enriching birthday present

SEE PAGE 36

Kent Weekend



GEEK fest!

SEE PAGE 34

PLUS: The star qualities of a landmark restaurant - **food and drink p35**
Green credentials of new development policy questioned - **property p38**
Audi knows less is more with its stylish facelift to the A5 - **driving p41**

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THE INTERVIEW

Omid Djalili

Above and beyond the call of duty

Joe Bill meets the funnyman whose latest show leaves the audience with something crazy

FROM a bit-part extra in The Mummy to having his own show on BBC One, Omid Djalili has become a household name in just a few short years.

Now one of Britain's most recognised faces, British Iranian Djalili is about to take time out of his busy schedule to do what he loves most, stand-up comedy.

His Tour Of Duty schedule is Djalili's first for almost four years, but that is not surprising considering he has bagged two series of his own sketch-show on the BBC as well as cropping up in films like Gladiator and Pirates Of The Caribbean.

Anyone who has already seen him live knows Djalili is proud of his heritage but happy to poke fun at both himself and a number of politically-sensitive topics.

Djalili has won Time Out, South Bank Show and Emma Awards for his comedy and has been a Perrier Nominee, so why has he come back to stand-up only now?

He said: "Last Christmas, I did a corporate gig, which can be notoriously difficult, and I was so nervous I couldn't go on.

"I hadn't done a gig in about a year. The event organisers were getting nervous that I wouldn't go on, so they cited all kinds of legality at me if I failed to perform.

"As I took to the stage my mind was telling me 'You're going to die. You're just a fat, needy man pleading for attention. You have no integrity and the act has no artistic merit. That's why I'm here, for the money, not because I care or they care. They don't even like me'.

"Then the opening joke got more laughs than I'd expected. I started thinking 'They're laughing cos you're famous, not because you're funny'. It was at that moment I thought 'Wow. They're laughing and I'm not even funny. I'm going on tour'.

And Djalili has not been idle in the interim; he has made two seasons of his own comedy show for BBC One, as well as starring as Fagin in the West End production of Oliver.

Known for his cultural observations and



sharp wit on political issues, the title of his new tour is no surprise. He said: "I put out a not-so-serious message on Twitter about what to call the show and I got about 200 responses, many of them very clever.

"It hadn't jumped out at me straight away, but I saw the very first response back was Tour Of Duty and I liked it. Reminded me of peace-keeping forces and the fact someone once said I was a bridge between East and West and I thought 'Yes, I'm a bridge, and it's about time I started charging a toll. £1 for cars, £2 for lorries and £17 for Smart cars. See how smart they feel now'.

Responsible for two highly-acclaimed

DVDs already, Djalili has worked hard on his new show to keep up his standards.

He said: "It's based on an Eleanor Roosevelt quote about the different levels of thinking. She said 'Great minds talk about ideas, average minds talk about events, and small minds only talk about other people'.

"In stand-up, you do all those things – you talk about other people, you make sense of events and you elevate lofty ideas. Once you have set up the concept that great minds think about ideas, then you can say things like 'Doesn't Ed Miliband look like Wallace from Wallace and Gromit?'"

It is often the content of his fast-paced shows

that gets people talking as Djalili takes on the role of controversial characters and uses his knowledge and background to poke fun at sensitive situations, including the tensions in the Middle East.

He said: "There's an awful lot to talk about. After 9/11, I was saying 'Hold your horses. Not everyone in the Middle East is a terrorist. Leave Sikh people alone. They're being attacked just because they wear turbans! They've got nothing to do with it'. I was trying to find sanity in the madness."

"There are so many different levels to what is happening in the Middle East. With profound transformation in Egypt, Bahrain, Syria and Libya, the people of Dubai have a very British attitude to revolution: marching on the streets chanting 'What do we want? Democracy! When do we want it? After Happy Hour!'"

Making an audience think is one thing, but the comedian feels duty-bound to send his audiences home with a warm glow.

He said: "I think it's important to ask yourself 'What should the audience feel at the end?'.

"When I first saw stand-up, watching a bloke in jeans and a T-shirt at the Comedy Store by the mic and talking, I used to think 'Oh do something! Dance, move around, change the lighting, use music, do a few accents, change the pace, sing, wear a dress'.

"There was nothing wrong with stand-up and it's a noble art form, but I noticed every time I watched stand-up my sense of art and creativity was always outraged.

"That's why I want people to come away with the feeling that yes, we're all struggling, individually, mentally, emotionally, culturally, globally, but we're struggling together. And that's a good thing. So why not dance or do something crazy at the end? Leave the audience with something, anything. I'd shoot a cat out of my backside every night if I could make it work in the budget."

• Omid Djalili is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, February 16, at 8pm. Tickets cost £19 from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or the box office on 01892 530 613.



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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA



STAGE & ARTS

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features@kosmedia.co.uk

The walking artist reveals Hamish Fulton

Turner Contemporary, Margate

Tue, January 17, to Mon, May 7
01843 233 000

THIS is Hamish Fulton's first one-man show in a UK public gallery since 2002. The exhibition brings together works from the early 1970s to the present, including a new film of a group walk in Margate commissioned by Turner Contemporary in the lead-up to the opening of the gallery. Based in Kent, Fulton has made walking the basis of his art for the past three decades, producing photography, text and sketches that evolve from the experience of solo and group walks. He describes himself as a "walking artist". Also on show is a group of prints, photo-text pieces and woodworks, many of which have not been exhibited in the UK before. For more information on the display, you can visit www.turnercontemporary.org.



The older New Romantics Level 42

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Tickets on sale now
0844 8713015
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

LEGENDARY band Level 42 have announced a gig at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall as part of their 2012 UK tour. The group took the 80s by storm with their brand of

bass-driven jazz funk, wedge haircuts, pegged trousers and sharp shoes. They led UK soul acts that for a time changed the face of the street scene in Britain, dovetailing with the start of the New Romantic movement and Two Tone. Their success in record and ticket sales, chart positions and awards was started by hits like Running In The Family, Lessons In Love, Leaving Me Now, Hot Water and Something About You. The show is on Monday, October 8, 2012. Tickets are priced at £27.

Who let the droll dog out? Rufus Hound

Winter Gardens, Margate

Tickets on sale now
01843 292795
margatewintergardens.co.uk

RUFUS Hound, star of ITV's comedy panel show Celebrity Juice, has announced a date at Margate's Winter Gardens. The funnyman, who also stars alongside John Sergeant

and Marcus Brigstocke in Argumental on digital channel Dave, will head to the coast as part of his new UK tour. Hound has become known for his sarcastic tongue and ability to crowd-please whatever he does on stage... this has included stripping to his pants. Tickets are now on sale for the much-awaited show that comes to the seaside on Friday, March 9. Seats cost £17.50 and are available from the box office on 01843 292 795 or online from www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



Games fans' paradise It's time for the GEEK

Winter Gardens, Margate

Wednesday to Sunday, February 15-19
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

IN a first for Kent, Margate has secured an exhibition for games fans and electronics buffs. The Games Expo East Kent, or GEEK, exhibition is a contemporary event developed to celebrate the culture of videogaming and attract national attention to the regeneration of the area, as well as celebrate Britain's videogame heritage. GEEK 2012 is built around an interactive day featuring more than 150 playable consoles, networked PCs and thousands of games. The Winter Gardens will host the main exhibition showcasing the history of video games from the earliest examples to the most recent blockbusters. Tickets are priced at £12.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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Will Young pops by Songs in the forest

Bedgebury Pinetum, near Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, June 23, 2012
03000 680400
www.forestry.gov.uk/music

HOT off the back of a sold-out UK tour and No 1 album, Will Young has announced a tour of the nation's forests next year as part of Forestry Commission Live Music. The singer will be playing Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest on Saturday, June 23. In the 10 years since winning Pop Idol, Young has sold more than nine million records and crafted some of the deffest British music of his era. A succession of hits including Leave Right Now, Light My Fire, All Time Love and Changes from albums like From Now On, Friday's Child and Keep On has ensured a chart presence across the decade. Tickets cost £35 and are on sale now.

Jimbo's back Want to see a real legend?

Winter Gardens, Margate
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

COMEDIAN Jim Davidson is hitting the road with his Legend Tour and tickets are on sale now for his gig at the Winter Gardens in Margate on Friday, May 4, next year.

The former Big Break and Generation Game presenter brings his show to Kent and is sure to be as uncompromising and near the knuckle as ever. One of the UK's most recognisable stand-ups, Davidson has been at the centre of controversy with his appearances and comments on celebrity cheffing reality show Hell's Kitchen and is renowned for saying exactly what he wants when he wants. Tickets cost £20, although an early-bird deal is available for £16 if tickets are bought before January 31, 2012.



Festive twist to city's tales Spin on history

Canterbury Tales, Canterbury
Until Tuesday, January 3
01227 784600
www.canterburytales.co.uk

THE Wife of Bath is puckering up under the mistletoe as part of an alternative pilgrimage being offered at the Canterbury Tales visitor attraction this Christmas. Visitors en route from the Tabard Inn in London to Canterbury to visit Thomas Becket's tomb will be challenged to complete a Christmas-themed word search using visual and audio clues located in the various Medieval streets. Everyone who successfully completes the word search will receive a small tasty treat and be entered into a prize draw to win family tickets to The Canterbury Tales' five award-winning sister attractions, including Kent Life. The Christmas Trail through the Canterbury Tales will run through the seasonal holiday until Tuesday, January 3.



Hurry up, get your skates on! An extra week

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells
Until Sunday, January 8
01892 530613

SKATERS will be thrilled that the ice rink in Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells, will be open for an extra week, until Sunday, January 8. The rink will now be open on

Wednesday, January 4, from 5.30pm-8.30pm, and Thursday to Sunday, January 5-8, from 9.30am-9.30pm. The cost for an hour's skating, including hire of skating boots, is £7.50 for children and £9.50 for adults. A family ticket is £30.60 and a parent-and-toddler session is £7. The rink will be open from 9.30am to 9.30pm, with last admission at 8.30pm. To book tickets, visit www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com, call in at the ticket office in Calverley Grounds, or phone 01892 530613.

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Dining experience reveals restaurant has star potential of its own, despite one little slip-up

SINCE opening almost three years ago, Folkestone's Quarterhouse has become a popular entertainment and business hub in an area perhaps once written off by locals.

Located in Tontine Street, which a decade ago was classed as one of the less desirable parts of town, the dramatic, state-of-the-art building, designed by award-winning Alison Brooks Architects as part of the Creative Foundation's arts-led regeneration project, is quite clearly the star of this part of Folkestone.

Headline acts including comedians Jack Dee, Michael McIntyre and Sean Lock, as well as upcoming artists such as rap group Foreign Beggars, are just a handful of the long list of entertainers to have performed at the venue.

Countless films have also been screened and business suites and exhibition space are available for the creative crowd.

Friends of mine spoke especially highly of the restaurant.

But this led me to wonder: can a restaurant in a building that has chosen to be everything to everyone – a bar, eatery, music venue, performing-arts space, conference facility, business centre and cinema – ever be as successful as a venue that functions solely as a restaurant?

So, while the sensible people of Folkestone were tucked up indoors avoiding the horrific

RESTAURANT REVIEW



weather that had descended on the Kent coast, I decided to find out for myself.

Unfortunately, while the sparse décor, high ceilings and huge windows of the restaurant would be perfect for a spring or summer's evening, with the strong winds and rain battering down outside, it felt cold and exposed.

With the restaurant set on the first floor, however, you do get a sweeping view of the street below and, while sat at my table, I started to notice external artwork, such as the huge illuminated text sculpture by artist Nathan Coley on the roof of the Old Post Office which spells out 'Heaven is a place where nothing ever happens' in big light-

bulbs, which I probably would not have ever noticed had I not gone to Quarterhouse.

The menus offered us two courses for £14.95 or three for £17.95, as well as the choice of separate dishes.

My guest and I chose the three-course option: me, starting with the antipasti platter (£5.50) – prosciutto, salami, fresh figs, buffalo mozzarella, marinated olives, home-made focaccia, oven-roasted tomato dip and a rocket-and-spinach salad – then fresh rope-grown mussels marinere-style (£10.95), finishing with sticky toffee pudding with butter sauce and vanilla ice-cream (£4.50).

My guest started with focaccia with buffalo mozzarella and game salami (£4.95), then pasta with mussels and bacon in an Arrabbiata sauce (£10.95), followed by a mocha panna cotta and Italian biscuits (£4.50). We also ordered a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc (£12.50).

Both starters were faultless, cooked to perfection with generous portions and tasting as though they had come straight out of an authentic Italian kitchen.

Our main dishes followed and my dining companion's was delicious... perfectly cooked with just a hint of chilli, and juicy mussels scattered throughout the pasta.

But, unfortunately, the marinere sauce that came with my own tasty mussels was too oily

and, despite beautifully-cooked bread and crunchy home-made chips to dip in, I was unable to finish it. The mussels were delicious, though – the chef was just slightly too heavy-handed with the oil.

The desserts were as delightful as the starters and, despite not being one for sponge puddings, my sticky toffee pudding went down a treat.

Although my mussels disappointed, this did not take away from the fact that the food at Quarterhouse is fresh, beautifully cooked and exceptionally tasty.

The décor is a little sparse for my liking, but those with a creative eye would no doubt see the beauty in a restaurant that seemed a touch barren to me. And the friendly, chatty staff should not be overlooked... professional and smiley despite being in an almost empty restaurant with the rain lashing down outside.

Quarterhouse's restaurant should be able to attract crowds in its own right and not just those visiting to see a band or show.

Our final bill was £48.40.

Marijke Cox

■ **Quarterhouse**
Tontine Street, Folkestone CT20 1JR
Telephone: 01303 858540
www.quarterhouse.co.uk/foodanddrink

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Local talent is wired for sound Unsigned acts

**Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells**
Saturday, January 14
01892 530613

THE Assembly Hall Theatre is hosting a new live-music event for unsigned local bands looking to make a break into the business. The Wired show will include

performances from Intraverse, Fearless Vampire Killers, Sorrel Nation, Alice Amelia and Guy Osborn. Headliners Intraverse, pictured, boast rock-solid rhythms and two diamond-edged guitars as funky as they are heavy. Their release Please Don't Share Your Kisses has climbed the iTunes chart, the band recently released a video for Grant Me Permission, while they played the Download festival during the summer. Tickets cost £6.50 and are available at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

A sweet day for Tyson Honey treats

**Howletts Wild Animal Park,
Bekesbourne**
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

KEEPERS at Howletts Wild Animal Park have helped Tyson the honey badger celebrate his birthday with some sweet enrichment in the form of honey.

Head-keeper Jim Vassie said: "Tyson is a favourite here with keepers and visitors alike. His seventh birthday gave us the opportunity to provide him with some birthday-themed enrichment in the form of presents filled with his favourite honey." However, the population of honey badgers is in decline as they are frequently caught in traps left by beekeepers and poultry-farmers. Visitors to Howletts will be able to see Tyson as often as they wish with the Passport ticket that lasts all year.



You can reach for the stars Walk and gaze

Kearsney, Dover
Saturday, January 21
01304 241806
From 5pm-6.30pm

THE White Cliffs Countryside Partnership will be holding astronomy-for-beginners walks as they take visitors stargazing across the countryside. Sit or stand as you are given a guided talk about what can be observed in the night sky. Search for constellations, planets and the milky way, while maybe you'll see a meteor if you're lucky. If you have binoculars or a telescope, bring them along, but note that the event will not go ahead if it is thick cloud or raining heavily. Visitors are advised to dress warmly with plenty of layers and bring chairs, blankets for warmth and a torch. The meeting point is Kearsney Abbey café car park, Kearsney, Dover. The talk will last an hour and a half but may go on longer if conditions are good.



Dance by the shops Angelina Ballerina

Royal Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday and Sunday, January 7-8
From 11am-4pm
www.angelinaballerinadance.com

POP-UP dance studio is bringing its new idea to visitors and shoppers at the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre in Tunbridge Wells. It will be providing three- to six-year-olds the opportunity to experience dance within their usual shopping environment. The highlight of the two days will be the appearance of Angelina Ballerina herself, which will provide a thrilling photographic experience for both the children and their parents. Angelina Ballerina will also join in the dancing as well as host original competitions and other activities such as storytelling and colouring sessions during the two days.

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KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy, size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, W/LTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

BERVIL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

TALL slim, blonde, blue eyed voluptuous female, seeks older male, 70 plus for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382453

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, no materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227

DAWN young looking slim attractive fashionable 40's female, cultured, educated, and confident, W/LTM genuine male for mutually convenient relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382223

TIA 39yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, W/LTM kind, friendly, fun loving gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, W/LTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611

CLAIRE 38, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, W/LTM male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with a male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416

KATH slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a dvd and glass of wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381729

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727

NI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laid back attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381697

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-vo! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

CHERYL young attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most age ranges, easygoing, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for fit and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, W/LTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, diners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865

YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384844

LEDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, W/LTM male for adult fun. ACA can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135

FOLKESTONE late 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927

SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883

CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and W/LTM him. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hangups, W/LTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and last after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201

LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, W/LTM sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579

HELEN 34, lovely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, W/LTM male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional OHAC, W/LTM male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and W/LTM him. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601

IRVING 72, tactile, N/S, likes bowls, seeking attractive N/S female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382567

DEREK country loving man seeks young lady up to 50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382353

BLACK male, 58, medium build, likes sports, tv, cosy nights in, seeks female, 45-60 for love, romance and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382325

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159

TALL slim, blonde female, kind, caring, honest, seeks older male, 78 plus to treat me well. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378233

LIFE is too short to live it alone! Eve, attractive blonde blue eyed bubbly lady looking for similar genuine tactile person for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378011

TAMMY young 31yr old good looking brunette with no ties, seeking fun romantic guy for meals out, cosy nights in and more. No time wasters pls. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378009

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, fun and romantic, W/LTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221

Men Seeking

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MICHAEL 58, retired, 6ft, many interests, fit, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382519

ENGLISH male, 70, N/S, sporty fit, loves life, laughter, dance, meals out, seeks lady, age/nationality unimportant for meaningful friendship and good enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382445

WITTY attractive, professional male, 42, warm, sensitive, caring, OHAC, seeks a woman who knows her own mind and direction. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389012

PHIL 62, caring, considerate, many interests, music, travel, nights in, GSOH, seeks caring, loving female with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382409

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601

IRVING 72, tactile, N/S, likes bowls, seeking attractive N/S female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382567

DEREK country loving man seeks young lady up to 50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382353

BLACK male, 58, medium build, likes sports, tv, cosy nights in, seeks female, 45-60 for love, romance and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382325

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing attractive, W/LTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589

CLAIRE gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107

RICHARD 5ft 6ins, dark hair, blue eyes, 46, likes holidays, theatre, countryside, walks, cinema, meals 45, professional, slim, fit, seeks attractive female, 35-50 for walks, nights in, cooking. Looking for soul mate to share life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388940

PAUL 62, caring, reliable, understanding, no ties, seeks romantic, 31YR old male, wavy hair, GSOH, seeking female with similar interests LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382175

HOWARD 53, medium build, 6ft, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks standing, varied interests, seeks female, size 8-14 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382129

MALE seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388960

PHILIP young 58, looking for N/S romantic, beautiful lady, under 50, any race for excitement, love, romance. Own home in France and England, love food and much more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381897

SINCERE gent, 68, seeks lady, 50-60, intelligent with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381827

60YR old guy seeks black/Asian/Oriental lady for adult fun and friendship. Discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381825

MATURE CD seeks understanding mature woman for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381691

CANTERBURY male, 56, medium build, loving, understanding, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

GRAHAM 51, stocky, tanned, OHAC, likes a laugh, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381215



PAUL 42, gift, dark hair/eyes, seeks younger female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381191

MARK 62, reliable, trustworthy, varied interests, seeks understanding, romantic lady, 47-67 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380953

BILL late 50's, likes good wine, nights out, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380953

TALL dark handsome male, 46, seeks female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388512

ROMANTIC loving male, thoughtful caring, seeks similar female for LTR, outdoors, country pubs and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381253

58YR old male, loving, caring, easygoing, seeks slim-medium build female, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381983

PAUL brown hair, blue/green eyes, 45, professional, slim, fit, seeks attractive female, 35-50 for walks, nights in, cooking. Looking for soul mate to share life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388940

PAUL 62, caring, reliable, understanding, no ties, seeks romantic, 31YR

HOMES

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MPs condemn planning-reform policy for putting development before environment

PLANNING reforms put forward by the Government are biased in favour of property developers, according to a cross-party group of MPs.

Proposals to overhaul existing policies on development bids put more emphasis on economic growth than the environment or society, according to the Communities And Local Government Committee.

The committee MPs warned the current draft of the new rules risked the planning system being

used to implement badly-thought-out or unsustainable development putting green spaces at risk.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reduces more than 1,000 pages of policy to just 52. It says the default answer to planning proposals is 'yes' – except where that would compromise sustainable development.

But the MPs said sustainable development was not defined adequately and that clarity had been lost as the framework was made shorter.

And conservation groups, including the National Trust, have raised fears the proposals could lead to a return to urban sprawl and damaging development. The body stated the report now put "irresistible pressure" on the Government.

Clive Betts, committee chairman, said: "The way the framework is drafted currently gives the impression that greater emphasis should be given in planning decisions to economic growth. This undermines the equally important environmental and social elements of the planning system."

"As currently drafted, the 'default yes' to development also carries the risk of the planning system being used to implement unsustainable development."

"As currently worded, the framework would introduce several ambiguities that are more likely to slow down the planning process."

Campaigner Matt Champion, who has been



UNDER THREAT: Green spaces could be lost

fighting to save an area of greenfield in a Norfolk village being turned into a lorry park, told Sky News that the plans did not support any of the benefits the Government had outlined.

"I would like to say to the planning minister: 'You have talked about this policy being in support of housing, economic development and employment. This site is not supporting any of these things'."

The Government insists the shift to a focus on a "presumption in favour of sustainable development" is needed to boost growth and says the changes will give communities more say in their local area and protect the environment.

Fewer house sales expected in the new year

ASKING prices on newly-listed homes rose on average by 1.5 per cent in the year to December, the property website Rightmove has reported.

And the most recent Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors report showed member estate agents reporting more homes unsold and on their books than at any time since the height of the property slump in December 2008.

Rightmove forecast asking-prices to continue

to rise slightly in 2012, predicting a 2 per cent increase over the course of the year, with prices reflecting shortage of new sellers and low interest rates, meaning fewer forced sales than expected in tough economic times.

But the report added that, with inflation running high, asking prices were declining in real terms as Retail Prices Index inflation remains above 5 per cent.

ANGELA HIRST

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Crowborough, East Sussex Guide Price £375,000

Site with planning for a pair of 2/3 bed semi detached houses and a terrace of 4 x 3 bed houses to the rear with parking



Sundridge, Kent £500,000-£600,000

Grade II listed 7 bed Hall House requiring renovation with 1/2 acre garden - further 3 acres of land available separately



Ashington, West Sussex Offers ieo £135,000

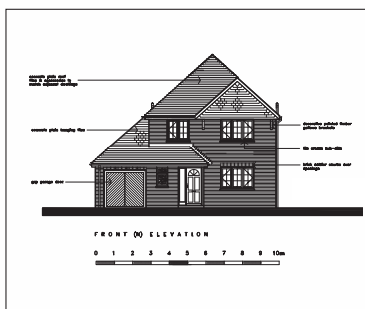
Existing property to be divided to create a separate dwelling comprising 1 bedroom, 2 receptions, kitchen, bathroom and garden



Berwick, East Sussex Guide Price £1 million

17 acre site set in glorious countryside with planning permission for a detached property of approximately 8,500 sq ft

Merry Christmas



Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex £130,000

Single plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom property of approximately 1,750 sq ft



Wingham, Kent Offers Invited

3.5 acre site with planning permission for a replacement dwelling surrounded by open countryside - further land available, if required



Maidstone, Kent £235,000

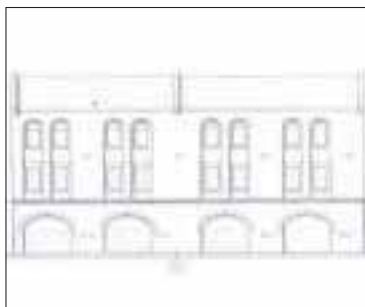
Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom house of approximately 2,500 sq ft



Greatstone, Kent £150,000

Single plot with planning permission for a contemporary detached 2/3 bedroom house with direct sea views

And a Happy New Year



St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex Guide Price £250,000

Site with planning for 5 new build apartments and 1 conversion in addition to the office space with further potential, subject to planning



Rye, East Sussex Guide Price £475,000

Site with planning pending for 4 units plus the retention of the existing detached house requiring complete refurbishment



Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent Guide Price £200,000

Barn with planning permission to convert to a 3,000 sq ft residential dwelling set within grounds of 0.25 acres



Petteridge, Kent £975,000

Site with planning permission for three substantial detached houses available as a whole or individually (£350,000 each)



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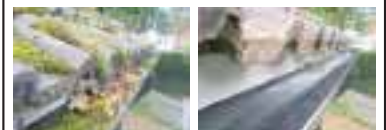
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Hyundai keeps on improving with the latest i30



Micra puts its quality down in black and white

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REVISED:
The changes to the A5 are all very restrained but make a significant difference to a driver's enjoyment of the car

Audi A5 facelift transforms long journeys into a real joy

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AUDI'S A5 has been a big hit for what is now the UK's best-selling premium marque.

Unlike BMW and its popular 3-Series, Audi decided that the two-door coupe version of its A4 rival should have its own identity – the A5 Coupe launched in 2007

Two years later, logic turned the next generation A4 Cabriolet into an A5 derivative instead, while Audi surprised the market with another all-new model, the five-door A5 Sportback.

Now all three have had a facelift, not that you would really notice on the outside. The cosmetics are actually restrained, probably because Audi didn't want to undermine the residual values of earlier cars or the goodwill of owners who had just bought the 'old' version.

To cut a long story short here, the front end looks a bit meaner – notably because the headlamps and Audi's new trademark LED running lights have been remodelled – and the interior has been tweaked to make it even more user-friendly and I like the new round steering wheel boss, replacing the ugly trapezoidal one that echoed the car's front grille.

AUDI A5

Price:
from £25,540

Driving appeal:
★★★★★

Image:
★★★★★

Space:
★★★★

Value:
★★★★

Running costs:
★★★★

Reliability:
★★★★★

How green?:
★★★★

Best rival:
BMW 3-Series

Good sense has prevailed on the Sportback with the new offer of a five-seat option; it makes sense when many buyers of this version will be looking for maximum practicality/capacity.

The big news however, is beneath the skin in the form of revamped powertrains and a reworked chassis.

All engines now emit less CO₂ – up to 22 per cent – and that will be a big tax factor for company car drivers drawn to the 2.0TFSI and the new 3.0TFSI that replaces the old 2.7 unit.

Worthy though these diesels are, many private buyer enthusiasts will be drawn to the model I chose to check out – the creamy 209bhp 2.0 TFSI Quattro (from £30,965). This turbocharged unit is a favourite from Audi, delivering smooth and responsive power economically – it can average around 40mpg. Coupled with the all-wheel drive Quattro system, it gives the car nimbleness and dependability and underlines what a good all-rounder this A5 line-up is.

The last point has been sharpened by chassis revisions, which have made the A5 more compliant and settled in the ride department without troubling its pin sharp accuracy on a winding road – perfect for a business executive with long distances to cover and enjoy.

The new-look Avensis is out now and ready to impress us

TOYOTA'S latest evolution of the Avensis is its most visually imposing so far, and a midlife makeover has done it no harm in the company car park status stakes.

The fact that prices have been pegged or even cut, will also catch the eye.

The revised range of saloons and estates, built at the marque's ultra-modern and No.1 European plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire, starts at £18,450.

Cosmetic changes are actually minor, but surprisingly effective in making the car look more purposeful.

Toyota also claims to have made the spacious cabin quieter and more comfortable too, though it was no slouch there before.

With company car user choosers making up the bulk of sales though, a key point is revisions to the top-selling 2.0-litre D-4D diesel engine to deliver lower emissions and better fuel economy, so CO₂ levels are now down to 119g/km bringing

zero road tax in year one and £30 a year thereafter – absurdly low for a family size car.

Company user choosers will also like Toyota's decision to launch its new Touch and Go Plus multimedia, navigation and information system – it comes as standard on flagship T Spirit models.

Apart from sat nav and iPod/MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity, the system's 6.1-inch touchscreen also contains the rear-view camera and connectivity to Google Local Search, and offers many downloadable applications.

Toyota believes the system has huge appeal to hard-working motorway-driving executives who need traffic information, email and texting, plus easy control of such features via voice recognition – useful for inputting sat nav addresses on the move.

The slightly less spec'd up Touch and Go appears as standard on all lesser models apart from the T2 entry trim.



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*Price relates to Aveo 1.2 LS featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £375. Available at participating Dealers only. Specification varies across the range. Image shown is an Aveo 1.4 LTZ, available at £11,195. Offer ends 31st March 2012. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, New Aveo, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Price correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo range: Urban - 31.4 (9.0) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban - 52.3 (5.4) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined - 41.5 (6.8) - 78.4 (3.6). CO₂ emissions 159 - 95g/km.

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MOTURING



Micra embraces the black-and-white era

BLACK and white are the motor marketing people's favourite colours at the moment, so Nissan is not alone in offering special versions of the Micra in those two tones.

But it isn't just a cosmetic exercise in the case of the Micra Kuro and Shiro – black and white respectively in Japanese – because, while based on the popular mid-grade Acenta specification, these special versions offer a lot more for a starting price of £11,550.

For a start, they have two specific changes to Acenta versions: an ivory-effect dashboard and lighter seat trim. And there is extra kit, including parking sensors, heated front seats and climate

control. An integrated sat-nav system is available for £400 and each Kuro and Shiro is highlighted by a name badge on the tailgate.

Both normal Micra petrol engines and transmissions are available: the 1.2-litre normally-aspirated unit or the impressive new supercharged DIG-S version of the same engine, and with manual or CVT automatic transmissions.

In our recent review of the DIG-S, we gave it top marks for offering diesel-style lowdown pulling power with economy, plus the nimbleness that comes with petrol units in smaller cars.

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Kent's James Tredwell was named in England's squad for the Cricket World Cup. The 29-year-old spinner went on to take 4 for 48 on his debut against West Indies, going on to play in the quarter-final defeat against Sri Lanka

Former Sittingbourne midfielder Andy Drury completed a dream deadline day move from Luton Town to Ipswich Town. The Tractorboys fought off two other Championship clubs to win the race for the 27-year-old's signature

Canterbury ladies' bid to win the Women's Premier Division hockey title came unstuck in the final weeks of the season. Nick Clark's side faltered in defeats against Reading and Leicester, eventually finishing two points off the pace

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

JANUARY

■ **TEENAGE** Sunday league players were threatened with life bans after posting threatening messages to opponents on Facebook.

The Kent Youth League (KYL), which has 155 teams from from under-13s up to under-18s, was alerted by a parent of one of the recipients.

Colin Boswell, chief executive at the KYL, said: "We take matters like this very seriously and I think this sort of thing needs to be nipped in the bud quite quickly."

The entire league was reminded of internet policies, but after investigating two clubs no formal sanctions were made.

■ **A RUGBY** Football Union (RFU) disciplinary hearing hit Maidstone RFC with a 50-point penalty and £2,000 fine for an eye-gouge incident which blinded Gravesend's Clarence Harding in one eye.

In what is likely to be seen as a test case, the club were found guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the union and/or the game following the injury in a Kent Cup fixture in 2010.

Maidstone, who maintained Harding had been the victim of a tragic accident rather than a deliberate act, felt the RFU had ignored key medical evidence. They initially appealed before later withdrawing it, which condemned the first XV to relegation from London 2 South East.

FEBRUARY

■ **GILLINGHAM** youth coach Darren Hare admitted he was lucky to be alive after watching himself undergo emergency heart surgery.

The 43-year-old suffered a heart attack shortly after returning from a scouting trip.

He said: "The next thing I knew I woke up on the floor, I knew I had to wake my wife up so I crawled upstairs and by that stage the chest pains had kicked in."

Hare was conscious during the operation and although he suffered a second attack after returning home, returned to work in the summer.

■ **KRISTIAN House (1)** made a stunning start to his season by winning the Tour of South Africa.

The former national road racing champion from Canterbury attacked on the first stage of the week-long event and was still in the yellow jersey at the finish near Cape Town.

The 31-year-old Rapha Condor Sharp rider put the victory among his best: "It's definitely up there with them - in the context of when it was in the year and the way we won it; riding from start to finish in the yellow jersey was most rewarding."

MARCH

■ **BOXING (2)** was held at Medway Park for the first time, with more than 1,000 spectators flocking to watch a bill packed with Kent fighters.

The highlight was Chatham heavyweight Tom Dallas, who delighted his fans by knocking out Hungarian Gabor Farkas in the third round.

The fight night was effectively a dress rehearsal for a higher profile event screened live on Sky television in May, promoted by Frank Maloney. Chislehurst's Sam Webb topped the bill, perforating an ear drum in an epic, but ultimately unsuccessful, defence of his British light middleweight title against Prince Arron.

■ **CATHERINE** Spencer described her decision to retire from all rugby as "a natural handover" in the wake of England women's fifth straight Six Nations title.

The 31-year-old played on the international stage for seven years, spending three as captain.

The former Folkestone player said: "It's nice to be able to sit back and feel proud of what I've achieved, as an individual and as part of the team. When you're in that bubble, playing for your country becomes normal life, but now I can step back from it all."

The retirement only lasted until September, when Spencer joined Aylesford Bulls ladies.

APRIL

■ **LESS** than a year after surviving a life-threatening crash, Mike Conway stood on the top step of an IndyCar podium for the first time in only his third race back.

The 27-year-old from Sevenoaks climbed from 21st place to take the honours at the Grand Prix of Long Beach in California.

It completed a remarkable return for Conway, whose career was in doubt 11 months earlier when he crashed at 220mph in the Indy 500.

He said: "There's been a lot of hard work done and all that's paying off. It's great to be able to enjoy it this early and cement my place in the team. They put a lot of faith in me so this was a big thank you to them."

■ **THE** redeveloped **St Lawrence Ground (3)** opened its gates for the first time as Kent welcomed Gloucestershire in the County Championship.

Despite a freezing winter which held up construction, the first phase of the £8.2 million project was largely completed for the game.

The refurbished pavilion and Les Ames Stand remained out of bounds until the following month, but it still represented a transformation of the club's headquarters.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, said: "The message is to bear with us. It's the most significant change in infrastructure that Kent cricket has had ever. There will be teething problems, but we will get them right."

MAY

■ **THE** climax to the football season produced drama for supporters of Ebbsfleet United and **Tonbridge Angels (4).**

The pair clinched promotion via play-off finals at the end of a long season. Ebbsfleet beat Farnborough 4-2 to secure an immediate return to the Conference Premier, while the Angels did it the hard way in the Ryman Premier Division.

More than 2,400 fans flocked to Longmead for the nerve-shredding final against Lowestoft Town. The Angels built a 3-1 lead but were pegged back, before Lewis Taylor scored a famous goal to make it 4-3.

Elsewhere **Gillingham's (5)** season ended in disappointment as a 3-1 defeat at League Two champions Chesterfield on the final day saw the side miss out on the play-offs on goal difference.

■ **AFTER** spending years battling against and overcoming depression and an eating disorder, Naomi Cavaday retired from professional tennis to focus on raising awareness of the issues for young athletes.

Although keen to point out a full recovery had been made from both, the 22-year-old from Sidcup felt stepping down was the right move.

She said: "I recognised I wasn't happy doing it, with the amount of travel and the stress and pressure. It's difficult to deal with at the best of times and when you're struggling within yourself it exaggerates everything."

Cavaday was later named as an ambassador for Beat, an eating disorder charity.

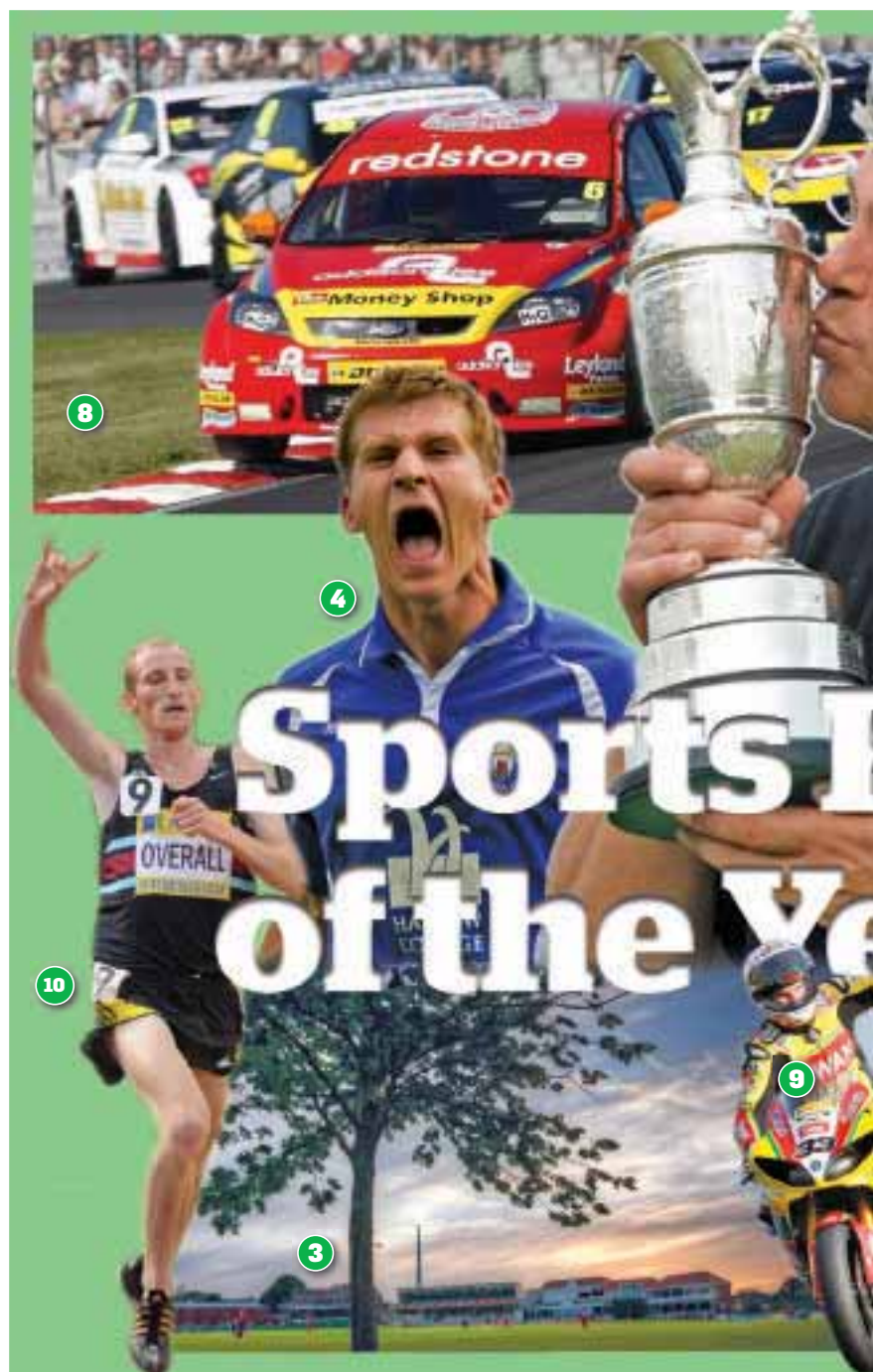
NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

A 1-0 win at Leyton Orient earned Gillingham a lucrative tie against Stoke City in the FA Cup third round. The prospect of ex-manager Tony Pulis returning to Priestfield in charge of the Potters set up a likely sell-out on January 7

Azhar Mahmood ended speculation about his future by penning a new contract at Kent. The experienced ex-Pakistan all-rounder agreed a two-year deal shortly before Michael Powell became the club's first new signing of the winter

After a superb start to the season with Dartford, Charlie Sheringham moved to League One side Bournemouth. The striker, son of former England and Manchester United star Teddy, moved for an initial fee reportedly worth £25,000



JUNE

■ **A SLOW** start to the season prompted Kent to dip into the overseas market to recruit two players for the Friends Life t20.

South Africa's Charl Langeveldt and Wahab Riaz from Pakistan arrived in a bid to boost crowds for home games.

George Kennedy, Kent's chairman, said: "I think we have to be realistic as well and say if we want people to really follow the club and watch us we have to have the right players on the pitch as well."

Kent reached the quarter-finals, where they

were knocked out by Leicestershire.

■ **ANDY** Smith stunned seasoned tour professionals by securing a place at The Open Championship with a victory in Local Final Qualifying.

Injuries had seen the 26-year-old from Maidstone lose motivation and he had virtually no preparation. Using a set of borrowed clubs he won the event at Littlestone, booking a place at Royal St George's in July.

He said: "I had lost all my sponsors after missing so much time last year and just couldn't be bothered with playing anymore. I only thought I'd have a go because it was in Kent."

"I know it's a cliché but it's a dream come true. It's been a surreal couple of days."

DECEMBER

Medway Park Crusaders clinched a dramatic victory in the English Basketball League Division Two play-off final with a 75-72 success against Westminster Warriors. The club went on to move up to Division One for the first time

Hundreds of Aylesford Bulls supporters made the trip to Twickenham to watch their club in the Intermediate Cup final. The side's 15-game winning streak came to an end with a narrow 16-10 defeat to Stoke on Trent

Tom Dallas' unbeaten professional record came to a shuddering end as he was knocked out in the second round by David Price. The 26-year-old Chatham heavyweight only had four days' notice, stepping in for the ill John McDermott

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



JULY

■ THE eyes of the golfing world were on Sandwich as Royal St George's hosted the 140th Open Championship.

More than 180,000 people attended the tournament, where Northern Ireland's **Darren Clarke (6)** became the first British player to lift the Claret Jug in 12 years.

While the finale lacked the final day drama of previous Opens in Sandwich, it was a hugely popular but unexpected triumph for the 42-year-old, who many suspected had passed his peak.

He said: "There's times I've been completely

and utterly fed up with the game. But friends and family and [manager] Chubby [Chandler] say 'get out there and practice and keep going' and that's why I'm sitting here now."

American duo Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson finished three shots back in a share of second place.

■ **GILLINGHAM'S** preparations for the season were thrown into disarray as new signing **Adam Birchall (7)** suffered a serious knee injury in a pre-season friendly at Welling United.

The striker, who had only joined from Dover Athletic earlier in the month, required surgery after landing awkwardly.

Birchall attempted to remain upbeat following

the news he would be out for several months.

He said: "I'm going to be there all the time and want to help the team in any way I can. I was desperate to sign here and I'm so grateful to be here."

AUGUST

■ **VICTORY** at Snetterton left Motorbase driver **Mat Jackson (8)** top of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) with four rounds left.

Catapulting the privateers from Wrotham into the limelight, it took Jackson clear of rivals with bigger budgets and dreaming of the overall title.

Team owner Dave Bartrum said: "I'm a very proud man, my team is leading the championship for the first time and it is a fantastic testament to all the hard work of everyone involved and the ever determined Mat Jackson."

It turned out to be only a brief moment of glory, as their challenge faltered in the closing weeks of the season.

■ A **TACTICAL** error led to Lisa Dobriskey's shock elimination in the heats of the 1,500 metres at the World Athletics Championships.

The Ashford athlete looked to have regained full fitness shortly before heading to Daegu, South Korea, but an ill-advised move on the final lap left Dobriskey, who won a silver medal at the championships two years earlier, overtaken in the home straight.

She said: "I thought I was coping well with it [the injury] but obviously not. I'm very disappointed."

Maidstone's Jack Green reached the semi-finals of the 400 metres hurdles in his first major senior international championships.

SEPTEMBER

■ **KAREN** Stupples helped Europe to a memorable Solheim Cup victory but was denied a role on the final day's play due to an injury to her opponent.

The golfer from Deal was scheduled to play Cristie Kerr in the potentially pivotal final singles match, but the American pulled out with a wrist problem before the start, conceding the point.

Stupples, who lost her other two matches at Killeen Castle in Ireland, said: "If she hadn't been injured, I know she would have given it a good crack, too. I'm gutted, but that's how it is."

Europe won the trophy 15-13, their first victory since 2003.

■ THE end of a poor season at Kent was swiftly followed by a turbulent start to the winter with the exit of three key figures.

Director of cricket Paul Farbrace left with a year still to run on his contract, opener Joe Denly signed for Middlesex and Martin van Jaarsveld joined Leicestershire.

Farbrace said: "I have enjoyed working with the group of players and wish them well. I am now looking forward to the future and I will always have good memories of my time at Kent."

Van Jaarsveld went on to change his mind in November, opting to retire from county cricket.

OCTOBER

■ **BRANDS** Hatch had the privilege of staging a spectacular finish to the British Superbike Championship which saw the title race decided by a fraction of a second.

The season-long battle between **Tommy Hill (9)** and John Hopkins came down to the last lap of the final race. Glory hung in the balance as the pair switched positions five times, before Beckenham-born Hill finished 0.006 seconds ahead.

He said: "When I crossed the line I reckoned I'd won but then I saw John put his arm up and I thought 'oh no'. It was only after I saw the marshals and the crowd that I knew I'd got it."

■ THE cricketing world united to pay tribute to former Kent and England star Graham Dilley, who died from cancer aged just 52.

A talented swing bowler, the Dartford-born cricketer made his debut for Kent aged 18 and despite suffering an injury-hit career went on to play 41 Tests for England. After his playing career Dilley went into coaching with the national side, before taking up a position at Loughborough University.

The news was completely unexpected and shocked the sport's biggest names.

Kevin Pietersen's tribute on Twitter was typical: "What an amazing guy Graham Dilley was - always smiling and always helping spread his knowledge about our great game. A sad day."

NOVEMBER

■ A **SELFLESS** act of sportsmanship saw Canterbury City deliberately concede a goal in a cup tie at Fisher.

The officials failed to spot a legitimate goal from Fisher, with the ball passing through a hole in the back of the net. City boss Paul Murray defused the tension by instructing his side to allow Fisher to score in the 4-4 draw.

He said: "It would've been easy for me to sit down in the dug-out and not say anything but it would have spoiled a really good game."

"I've never had so many drinks offered to me in the bar after a game, Fisher were fantastic."

■ **LEON** Camier revealed he had turned down a chance to ride in MotoGP next season as he sought to take care of unfinished business in the World Superbike Championship (WSB).

The Ashford rider finished his second season in WSB seventh in the standings. Several offers were on the table for 2012, including a spot in MotoGP, but Camier opted to join Crescent Suzuki as he looks to become a contender in WSB.

He said: "I have still got business I need to attend to in World Superbikes. The last two years haven't gone how I wanted them to."

DECEMBER

■ A **DISTANCE** runner became one of the first British athletes to be guaranteed a place at the London Olympics next summer.

Blackheath & Bromley Harriers' **Scott Overall (10)** was selected after running the qualification time in his first competitive marathon in September. The 28-year-old only decided to switch from the 5,000 metres in May and admitted the thought of competing at the Games would take a while to get used to.

He said: "I don't think it will really sink in until a lot closer to the time, the Olympics is the biggest sporting arena for an athlete so to be a part of it will be brilliant."

■ **BENN** Barham's hopes of regaining a full European Tour card were dashed as he faded in the final stage of Qualifying School.

The 35-year-old was derailed by shooting seven-over-par in the penultimate round.

It was a heartbreaking finish for Barham, who missed the start of the year as he recovered from having a kidney containing a tumour removed.

It means the 35-year-old will play the majority of his golf on the Challenge Tour in 2012.

The Tenterden golfer said: "I was absolutely gutted, I won't lie. I've got a great family around me but golf pays the bills, so it's tough to take."

SEPTEMBER

AUGUST

JULY

A run of one win in eight games saw Martin Hayes sacked as Dover Athletic manager. The former Arsenal player led the Whites to the FA Cup third round in January, but a slow start to the season saw him replaced by Nicky Forster

Tom Bosworth admitted he had stunned himself after setting a new national record for the five-kilometre walk at the UK championships. The 21-year-old from Sevenoaks' performance broke a mark which had stood for 22 years

Nepal became the latest nation to agree a deal to send athletes to the country for training camps in the run-up to the London Olympics. After touring Kent, the country's Paralympic committee opted to be based around Canterbury

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